FBIS
DAILY REPORT
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U.S., NATO 'COMPETITIVE' WEAPONS MARKET SCORED

PM201252 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 First Editon p 4

[Yu. Kharlanov article: "Climbing a Spiral Leading Down: What the Pershing and Cruise Missiles Bring in Their Wake"]

[Text] "Luns has done his bit, he can go" — this is approximately how the farewell speeches of the NATO secretary general, who hands over his post in June 1984 to the former British Defense Secretary [as published] Lord Carrington, can be summed up. In numerous speeches, articles, and interviews for news agencies, newspapers, and magazines Joseph Luns does not tire of rejoicing over the "feat" accomplished by Atlanticists of every stripe in various countries in giving the green light to the siting of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe. And without false modesty he highly praises his own personal contribution to this measure, most dangerous for the cause of peace, stressing that pushing through the new U.S. missiles was the most important of his objectives over the past 5 years. And both the old and the new leader of the NATO political apparatus declare that after the siting of the new U.S. missiles, the United States and its NATO allies must proceed to the next, "no less important" stage in their activity.

Its outlines have already been laid down in the bloc's next 5-year program, discussed recently by the NATO military planning committee. It is a question of a swift buildup — at a qualitatively new level -- of the NATO armies' conventional, that is, nonnuclear armaments.

In 1982, when this program was first put forward at the NATO council session as the "Rogers plan" named for the NATO Supreme commander for Europe, who put forward the Pentagon plans, it was agreed to discuss it only in principle. At the last session, expert commissions were set up and instructed, for the time being, to think through the technical details of these plans and to prepare recommendations. And there certainly is a great deal to think about: The new 5-year plan for the development of NATO conventional armaments is to be quite unusual in character from the military, political, and economic viewpoints.

Let us begin with certain of its military aspects. According to THE FINANCIAL TIMES, the Pentagon has submitted to the NATO countries' defense ministers some 30 new promising "high technology" weapons systems "many of which are already at the research and development stage with U.S. firms." They are all based on the most up-to-date and incredibly expensive U.S. military electronics manufactures, minicomputers, microcircuits, and infrared guidance devices. These types of weapons include modifications of existing (often nuclear) missiles such as Lance and Patriot, and also fundamentally new means (these are in the majority) -- antitank cluster munitions, "smart shells," and electronic reconnaissance systems. An example is the assault breaker, which includes a sophisticated detection system capable of "seeing" targets deep in the enemy's rear, with highly accurate missiles as its strike component.

There is another feature that distinguishes these systems. They have a long-range flight cabability -- from 30 to 300 km, according to THE FINANCIAL TIMES figures -- and are intended for use as offensive weapons, weapons of aggression. Their use is part of the Pentagon-devised airland battle strategic concept aimed at wiping out the enemy's troops before they join battle and while they are still deployed deep in their own territory. The West German newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE writes: "U.S. experts term this well-conceived logic of conducting combat operations, combined airland battle. They have named the concept 'deep-strike'. The precision weapons, 'smart shells,' and electronic reconnaissance systems could enable NATO task forces to destroy a potential enemy which is still in its operational deployment area."

In other words, if we look more closely, it becomes clear that these systems are the material requisite of the scenario of war, "limited" to the European theater of military operations whose nuclear side will be covered by Pershing II and cruise missiles and by tactical nuclear charges.

But not only by these. It recently became clear that the Pentagon's generals intend to give a dual purpose to the new "conventional" weapons. The nuclear warhead for the standard missile is already being made, according to the U.S. press, while that for the Phoenix missile is at the development stage. The assault breaker system is planned for development in three versions at once -- with conventional, nuclear, and binary gas shells. It is also planned to use "high technology" systems as neutron bomb delivery vehicles.

It is clear that the implementation of these plans in parallel with the siting of U.S. first-strike nuclear missile weapons in the European NATO member countries reveals yet again the aggressive nature of Western military blocs and totally demolishes any claims about NATO's "defenisve" role. Support for such a program, and this must be said with total clarity, will mean that the U.S. NATO allies fully approve the insane plans of "crusade" against the socialist world.

This is the crux of the problem's political aspect, which the West European politicians must think about in the knowledge that the peoples of their countries in no way wish to sacrifice their own existence in order to try and help the implementation of the U.S. militarists' impossible dream of "bringing the Russians to their knees." The English proverb does not recommend that people living in glass houses throw stones at their neighbors; still less, to allow this to be done by a "visitor" who has appeared from the other side of the ocean.

But there is another reason -- the economic -- for the pensiveness in the West European capitals which, incidentally, the newspapers there are more than willing to write about. According to the Pentagon's figures, just one of the "promising" new weapon systems, assault breaker, will cost $10 billion. And there are 30 of these systems, all designed by their very nature basically not for the United States, but for the West European NATO countries. And consequently they will be paid for, if not entirely, then mainly by the states that are going to adopt them.

The precise names of those who will get rich, if the NATO program is adopted, are given by M. Naumann, correspondent of the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL, who has been visiting California. Some 7,700 Pentagon suppliers based in that state approve the "air-land battle" concept. "The doctrine has changed very fortuitously for the Californian defense industry," M. Naumann writes. "Europe would protect itself not with nuclear but with ultramodern U.S. and, for the most part, Californian-made electronic weapons." The White House would like to add an extra few hundred billion dollars from the pockets of its West European allies to the gift of $2 trillion which it is allocating from the U.S. Treasury to America's "manufacturers of death." The propagandizing of the "Rogers plan" has been launched with particular force in recent weeks. It was discussed in particular during the recent meeting between U.S. Vice President G. Bush and the leaders of a number of West European countries.

Menawhile, the monopolies in the U.S. ally states are eager to grab their slice of the pie for NATO military orders. And in recent years they have gotton this slice: The production of Leopard tanks, Tornado multirole aircract, combat helicopters, Milan antitank missiles, and many other types of weapons either begun or being planned. After lengthy bargaining, West Germany's generals recently secured an agreement that when the FRG's air defense is modernized, not only the U.S. Patriot missile system but also West European-made Roland missles will be installed there.

This was followed by the signing of an agreement between Britain, the FRG, France, Italy, and Spain on the design and future production of an ultramodern fighter which, as the newspapers write, will undermine for many years to come America's potential for selling aircraft of a similar type to any of those countries. Joint development work is also being stepped up in Bonn, Paris, London, and other NATO capitals on other very modern types of weapons which promise the West European military-industrial complex unprecedented profits. As recent comments indicate, the West European concerns' participation in the joint production of military systems designed for launching into space is possible in the long term.

All at once, the Pentagon declares all this "obsolete," its technologists have apparently invented a "new generation" of weapons whose secrets they do not intend to share with the West Europeans. All right, the West European military concerns argue, but at least buy the classic type of weapons that we produce. However, Washington is not even promising that. This is another reason why Western Europe is now strutinizing the Pentagon's 30-system list so closely. Suppose there is a deal so that some of the systems can be built at the military monopolies' own plants?

Well, even this option is not excluded -- the morality of the struggle to be competitive is identical everywhere, including the arms market. It is just that here, perhaps, it is at their most repulsive. And while the generals and the bosses of military business bargain among themselves, people indignantly observe the fervor with which the murderous arms race spiral is being cranked up. The perverted nature of this race is especially obvious against the background of the Soviet proposals envisaging a freeze and subsequently a reduction of both the nuclear and conventional arms of the two military blocs that oppose each other in Europe.

When Luns and the other West European politicians dancing to Washington's tune forced through NATO's nuclear missile "arms upgrading," one of their main arguments was the claim that the Pershings and cruise missiles are necessary to make up for the Warsaw Pact countries' "superiority" in the conventional arms sphere. But now that they have achieved the start of the siting of the new U.S. missiles, they have changed their tune. The Pershings and cruise missiles have brought in their wake, 30 "high-tech" systems which are allegedly needed to prevent the use of medium-range nuclear weapons at "too early a stage in the conflict." And, obviously, new nuclear weapons will soon be needed to "guard" these systems. All this, like a descent through the seven circles into the abyss of the nuclear inferno. There is no denying that the venture is extremely dangerous not only for Europe, but for all mankind.

U.S. ARMS BUILDUP; NEGOTIATING STANCES VIEWED

LD192139 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Feb 84 Second Edition p 4

[Captain Second Rank V. Kuzar military-political review: "The Paramount Cause of All Peoples"]

[Text] "After the war ends, struggle tirelessly every day for peace because in days when you are not struggling for peace, you are helping war." These are words taken from the last radio telegram sent from on board a blazing aircraft by the well known Norwegian antifascist fighter Nurdal Grieg. Perishing in the air over Berlin in 1943, he made an ardent appeal to all people of good will which has today become a kind of motto not only for Norwegians but all participants of the antiwar movement in the West. This appeal assumed particular significance after the siting of U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles in Western Europe began -- missiles whose presence on European soil represents a real threat of nuclear war being unleashed.

It is an open secret that NATO circles are counting on solving several tasks all at once by the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe. The chief among these is to disrupt the existing military-strategic balance in the world and to achieve military superiority over the USSR and the Warsaw Pact organization and to create favorable conditions for victory in a possible nuclear war. Other particular aims have also been set. For example, it was presupposed that the appearance of these missiles on the European Continent would make the Soviet Union surrender its positions and make concessions.

However, these calculations have not paid off. The deployment of the new U.S. nuclear missiles on the territory of a number of European NATO countries has not brought the bloc the advantages which its ringleaders were counting on. The Soviet Union and the other states of the Warsaw Pact have declared most definitely that they will not allow the military-strategic parity to be upset. Appropriate retaliatory measures have been taken, aimed at ensuring the security of the USSR and of its friends and allies.

Anxious for the fate of Europe, the progressive public is building up its actions increasingly energetically. It is demanding that the European Continent be rid of U.S. missiles.

The aggressive forces of imperialism are trying in every way to cool the ardor of, and reduce the scale of the antimissile movement. Antidemocratic laws are being beefed up. Truncheons and tear gas are being brought into play more and more frequently. Arrests and reprisals against demonstrators are increasing. At the same time the special services and the propaganda apparatus are directing their efforts toward discrediting and splitting the antimissile movement, seeking to confuse its members, and prove that it "has lost its topicality" and "is merely hindering politicans from solving the problems of the world." Crude anti-Soviet slander is also being spread and attempts are being made to accuse the USSR of intransigence and of a reluctance to negotiate.

However, despite all subterfuges and the measures being taken by ruling cirlces of the Western countries, the members of the antimissiles movement are continuing to step up their struggle.

Western propaganda expatiates a great deal about trust and about "readiness to limit arms." However, the deeds and actions of the imperialist reaction bear out the reverse: The escalation of military proparations is continuing, including such preparations on the European Continent. Thus, just recently it has become known that cruise missiles h have been delivered to Comiso (Sicily), that in the FRG the deployment of Pershing-2 missiles has been embarked upon at yet another base, this time in Bavaria near Leipheim. By quantitatively building up these means in Europe, the United States is thus receiving a direct and very substantial increment to its strategic arsenal since on the strength of their positioning the Pershing-2 and cruise missiles can reach Soviet territory and are strategic weapons as regards the USSR. This, incidentally, is a clear violation of the SALT II treaty which, as is known, contains a special pledge not to bypass the treaty in any way whatsoever, that is, not to violate the established balance of strategic forces.

The plans being hatched in the United States for unleashing a nuclear conflict are seriously complicating the international situation. The TRIBUNE newspaper recently set forth the basic content of U.S. National Security Council Directive No 13 which the Pentagon has been keeping strictly secret. This directive orders U.S. Armed Forces to preapre to wage a "protracted nuclear war with the Soviet Union."

Just now in the suburb of the Norwegian capital, in Kolsos, where the headquarters of the main command of the NATO allied armed forces in the North European theater of military action is located, a conference of representative of the bloc's military and political leadership is taking place.

As the Norwegian press points out, the participants in the conference are discussing, in the strictest secrecy, plans for the further strengthening of NATO's northern flank to which the NATO strategists allocate a special role in their dangerous schemes. It is to these aims that the now annual large-scale military maneuvers of the NATO countries' armed forces in northern Norway and in extensive regions of the North Atlantic are subordinated, as are the creation of stockpiles of heavy military hardware and combat equipment for U.S. Marines and the modernization of the network of airfields so as to receive U.S. combat aircraft capable of carrying nuclear missiles on board. The question of creating controllable minefields on the bed of the Baltic straits and of the emplacement of batteries of missile installations on their shores is also being examined. And these criminal plans are being discussed at a time when the Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe is being held in a neighboring country -- Sweden -- and as is known, representatives of NATO countries are participating in its work.

The gamble on force, even when masked by peace-loving phraseology, cannot make the world safer. It rules out the possibility of fruitful East-West dialogue. Desire, political will, and specific political deeds are what is needed. It is precisely for this that the Soviet Union is appealing. The USSR has put forward a package of constructive proposals aimed at building confidence and at consolidating peace, and international security. Among these is the pledge by all nuclear countries not to make first use of nuclear weapons and the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual nonuse of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace.

Continuity and consistency of the USSR's foreign policy the core of which is the consolidation of peace and the prevention of nuclear war, were convincingly reaffairmed at the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee which took place on 13 February 1984, and in the speeches by the leaders of the party and state at the mourning meeting on Red Square. In the present extremely tense international situation, the Soviet Union clearly declares that it will continue the policy of peace -- lasting and just peace for all peoples -- great and small. Our country also confirms its readiness for negotiations, provided they are honest negotiations on the basis of equality and identical security.

As a great socialist power, the Soviet Union is wholly cognizant of its responsibility to the peoples for the preservation and strengthening of peace. It is prepared by practical deeds to help reduce international tension and create an atmosphere of trust in the world. The USSR's line toward ending the race for nuclear and other arms and toward their reduction will remain unchanged. However, as was stressed in the conversation that K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has with FRG Chancellor H. Kohl, for progress along this path it is important that the West, including the FRG should have a similar desire. In this connection the Soviet Union's principled stance regarding the consequences of the siting of U.S. nuclear missiles on FRG territory was reaffairmed.

Meanwhile in the FRG, there is a stubborn reluctance to acknowledge the threat to the security of that country and for the whole planet arising from the implementation of the NATO decision on "arms upgrading." Such a conclusion is drawn by the Western press from the utterances of the FRG Chancellor Kohl at a press conference which took place in Brussels. The head of the West German Government not only came out in favor of the continuation of the siting of U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles in the FRG but even tried to put pressure on the Belgian Government to give its consent as soon as possible to the installation of cruise missiles in that country.

The Soviet Union does not need military superiority and does not intend to dictate its will to others, but, as was emphasized at the CPSU Central Committtee extraordinary plenum, it will not allow the military equilibrium which has been achieved to be disrupted. And let no one remain in any doubt that we shall continue to take pains to strengthen the defense capability of our country in order that we may have sufficient means to cool the hot heads of bellicose adventurists.

The principled foreign policy of the USSR aimed at the peaceful solution of all vexed questions and at improving the international situation and which at the same time resolutely rebuffs the attempts by imperialist forces to disrupt the military-strategic balance which has taken shape enjoys the full support of the Soviet people. It encounters understanding and approval among all people of good will.

USSR POLICY OF DIALOGUE 'FAIR, EQUITABLE'

PM201824 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 84 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Our Goal -- Lasting Peace"]

[Text] The Soviet people are demonstrating at this time their close cohesion around the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. By unanimously supporting the decisions of the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Soviet people are declaring their unbending will to continue to labor selflessly for the triumph of communist ideals and to strengthen the cause of peace.

The course of the CPSU and the Soviet state is directed at delivering mankind from the threat of nuclear war. "This Leninist policy of peace, the basic features of which at the contemporary stage of history have been defined by the decisions of the recent CPSU congress," Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, remarked at the extraordinary plenum of the Central Committee, "meets the fundamental interests of the Soviet people, and essentially those of the world's other peoples as well. And we resolutely declare: We will not depart from this policy by even a single step."

The international situation in which the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community are implementing this policy is a complex and tense one. The reckless, adventurist actions of imperialism's aggressive forces are aimed at achieving military superiority over the Soviet Union and the socialist community as a whole, at liquidating detente, and at trampling underfoot the freedom and independence of the peoples. The Pentagon military are releasing the flywheel of an unbridled arms race. The situation in Europe has been considerably complicated by the deployment of U.S. first-strike missiles now under way in the FRG, Britain, and Italy.

The peoples cannot and have no wish to reconcile themselves to the growth of the danger of war. The planet's peace-loving forces link their hopes for the curbing of the instigators of military adventures primarily with the policy of the Soviet Union and of the entire socialist community. Socialism entered the arena of history carrying the banner of peace. A profound love of peace and the aspiration to deliver mankind from the horrors of war emerge organically from the very essence of the new social system. There are in this system neither forces nor -- even less so -- classes which are interested in wars or an arms race. The historic mission of socialism, which asserts peace, trust, and cooperation among peoples, is revealed particularly clearly in the nuclear age, when war can call in question the very existence of life on earth.

The great Lenin indicated to the peoples the way to resolve the most complex international problems in the contemporary epoch -- the path of the peaceful coexistence of states with differing social systems. Our party is unfailingly loyal to this principie. It is the Soviet Union which has come forward with a series of major initiatives which are of fundamental importance for the consolidation of universal peace. Trust between states would be considerably strengthened if the other nuclear powers also followed our example by pledging not to make first use of nuclear weapons. The cause of peace would gain significantly as a result of the implementation of the socialist community countries' proposals not to use armed force at all. All the peace proposals and initiatives made by the Soviet Union in recent years fully retain their validity.

The desire for military superiority over other states is alien to the Soviet Union. In the international arena our state is acting as a power which is fully aware of its responsibility to the peoples for the maintenance and consolidation of peace. We advocate the peaceful solution of international disputes via serious, equitable, and constructive negotiations. The USSR's policy is a policy of dialogue conducted on a fair and equitable foundation and directed at the achievement of specific accords.

Equality and identical security, mutual consideration for each other's legitimate interests, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs -- those are the principles of relations between countries, principles whose correctness has been conformed by the entire practice of international relations. The USSR has adhered and will unswervingly adhere to these principles. Were the U.S. leadership to show the same readiness, it would be possible to put the business of straightening out USSR-U.S. relations on a realistic footing. And this would have a positive influence on improving the entire international situation. The Soviet Union's constructive proposals are equally advantageous and acceptable for all states. We are waiting for the Western countries to work together with us in the field of ensuring a lasting and just peace.

At the same time we have to reckon with the dangerous policy of the aggressive imperialist forces in the NATO countries. Therefore the Soviet Union is forced to take retaliatory measures to strengthen its own security and that of its allies. We are not scared by threats. We will not allow the military equilibrium that has been achieved and which successfully serves the cause of European and world peace to be smashed.

The Soviet Union does not consider the current international situation to be irreversible. It is convinced that relations between the socialist and capitalist countries can be brought back to detente, which corresponds to the hopes and aspirations of the massive majority of the earth's population.

One of the major political factors of modern times benefiting the existing state of affairs in the world is the community of the fraternal socialist countries. The success of the cause of maintaining and strengthening peace depends to a very great extent on the activeness, purposefulness, and coordination of the socialist states' actions. The Soviet Union is striving steadily to expand cooperation with all the socialist countries.

Solidarity with peoples defending their right to independent, autonomous development is one of the foundations of our party's and state's foreign policy. Soviet people have ardent sympathy with and profound respect for the struggle of the capitalist countries' Communists for the interests and rights of working people. We will always be loyal to the principle of proletarian internationalism.

In the current situation the consistent course of the CPSU and the Soviet state in the foreign policy sphere is assuming increasing importance. The Communist Party, the Soviet state, and our entire people unanimously state their resolve to continue to maintain the firmness of the Leninist peace policy.

IAEA SESSION ON NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION OPENS

LD210955 Moscow TASS in English 0944 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Vienna February 21 TASS -- A scheduled session of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has opened here. It will examine a wide range of issues pertaining to the development of international cooperation in the use of atomic energy for peace, a further strengthening of the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

U.S.-USSR Views Exchanged

LD181726 Moscow TASS in English 1708 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Vienna February 18 TASS -- A regular round of Soviet-American consultations on questions connected with the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons was held here on February 16-18. The sides exchanged views on various aspects of the problem of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, including preparations for a conference on analysing the effect of the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, control over the export of nuclear materials, equipment and technology and on raising the effectiveness of the system of guarantees of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is to be held in 1985.

From the Soviet side, the consultations were attended by the Chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy A.M. Petrosyants, the member of the board of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador V.F. Petrovskiy, the permanent representative of the USSR at international organizations in Vienna Ambassador O.N. Khlestov. From the American side, taking part in the consultations were Ambassador at Large P. Kennedy, the U.S. permanent representative at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ambassador R. Williamson, the Deputy Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Committee of the U.S. L. Dunn, as well as high-ranking officials of the corresponding bodies of both countries.

The sides agreed to continue the exchange of views on questions connected with the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

USSR-UK Consultations

LD201702 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Vienna February 20 TASS -- Soviet-British consultations were held here on a broad range of issues of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Much attention was given to strengthening the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to preparations for a third conference to review the operation of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

USSR-Franch Discuss Questions

LD211022 Moscow TASS in English 1010 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Vienna February 21 TASS -- Soviet-French consultations on the problem of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons have been held here. The sides discussed a wide range of questions connected with the consolidation of international control over the nuclear exports and with raising the effectiveness of the system of guarantees of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS'

LD171351 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 84

["International Situation -- Questions and Answers" program presented by All-Union Radio Commentator Vyacheslav Lavrentyev, with political observer Aleksandr Zholkver, and All-Union Radio commentator Viktor Levin]

USSR Foreign Policy

[Excerpts] [Lavrentyev] Good day comrades. Our editorial office keeps receiving letters in which Soviet people approve the consistent Leninist course conducted by our party and state. Our people share the words expressed at the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee plenum by Comrade Chernenko that the Soviet Union will not deviate one step from the policy aimed at ridding mankind of the threat of a world nuclear war. Our mialbag contains many letters from listeners touching on some of the most diverse problems of contemporary international life. They speak out against the arms race and the United States' aggression in Lebanon, for reduction of nuclear arsenals and establishment of good-neighborly relations between all states. Such letters have been sent to us by war and labor veteran Aleksandr Aleksandrovich (Melnikov) from the city of Ussuriysk, Maritime Kray; Mikhail (Galich), from the Illarionovo settlement, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast; Aleksandra Iosopovna (Shulikina), from the city of Zhdanov; and many others of our listeners. The authors of these letters, in expressing their views on many international problems, ask us to tell them about our country's position on the cardinal issues of the present world situation. I hand over to our political observer, Aleksandr Zholkver.

[Zholkver] The main features of our country's foreign policy at present are defined by the decisions of the latest CPSU congresses. At the recent extraordinary plenum of the Central Committee, the speeches by Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the Central Committee, confirm the USSR's resolve to continue a policy of peace -- a durable peace, which is fair to all peoples, both great and small.

In your letters, comrades, you yourselves point out that the current international situation is complicated and tense. Indeed, the aggressive forces of imperialism are creating in one area after another some of the most dangerous hotbeds of conflagration. In these conditions, the Soviet Union, as a great socialist power, fully understands its responsibility to the peoples in preserving and strengthening peace.

Speaking at the Central Committee plenum, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko stressed that we favor a peaceful solution to all contentious international problems by means of serious, egalitarian, constructive talks. The USSR will cooperate fully with all states that are prepared to help by practical deeds to lessen tension and create an atmosphere of trust in the world.

At the same time, many of you comrades point out in your letters the threat to mankind of the reckless adventurist actions of the aggressive forces of imperialism. Yes, we speak of this out loud. We draw the attention of peoples of the whole world to this danger. We do not need military superiority. However, we will not allow the military balance that has been achieved to be destroyed.

American observers have noted in particular, for example, the part in Comrade Chernenko's speech that stresses that our country has sufficient means to help cool off the hot heads of bellicose adventurists. Clearly, comrades, whether the preservation and strengthening of peace is successful or not depends to a large extent on the level of the influence in the world arena of the socialist countries, on how active and well-coordinated their actions are and how effective their cooperation is in all spheres, including, of course, the economy.

The Soviet Union will continue to extend cooperation with all countries of socialism. Comrade Chernenko's meetings with the leaders of the Warsaw Pact states, who had come to Moscow in connection with the demise of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, took place in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere. Comrade Chernenko's meetings with Fidel Castro and Truong Chinh confirmed the resolve to strengthen and develop Soviet-Cuban and Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation as well.

One of the fundamental principles of our party and state foreign policy has been and will continue to be solidarity with peoples who have cast off the fetters of colonial dependence and have embarked upon a path of independent development; especially with peoples who are forced to repel attacks from imperialist forces. This is also an important direction in the struggle for peace today. Thus, for example, during Comrade Chernenko's meeting with Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega, decisive condemnation was voiced of Washington's attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the Central American countries. The Soviet people's firm support for the rightful cause of the people of Nicaragua, defending the freedom and independence of their homeland, was expressed.

As far as relations with capitalist countries are concerned, the Central Committee plenum confirmed its loyalty to the Leninist principles of peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems. Now, in the age of nuclear missiles, these principles are more essential than ever before.

Let us take Soviet-American relations. During his conversation with U.S. Vice President Bush, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko noted that these relations should be built on a basis of equality and equal security, on mutual regard for one another's legitimate interests and non-interference in the internal affairs of one another. Were the American side to show readiness to adhere to these principles, it would be possible to start improving relations between the two countries.

Soviet-British relations could be of more substance also; but, as Comrade Chernenko pointed out, in order to change the situation that has arisen in the world for the better, efforts must be made in this direction not only by the USSR and its allies but also by the NATO countries. Stress was laid in particular on the principled position of the Soviet Union with regard to the consequences of the deployment on the territories of certain NATO countries of U.S. nuclear missiles. The USSR however, would not like to consider the seriously complicated situation irreversible. Our country's proposals to reduce the nuclear missile confrontation in Europe remain in full force. The Soviet Union also favors reaching agreements on broad measures for strengthening trust. This would be greatly assisted by all nuclear powers pledging not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and by an international agreement not to use armed force in general.

So, our country's foreign policy at the present stage is one of peace; a policy for ridding mankind of the threat of nuclear war. The extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the speech made by Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the Central Committee of our party, confirmed that we will not deviate from this policy by a single step.

Stockholm Disarmament Conference

[Lavrentyev] The next question concerns the International Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures, and Disarmament in Europe held in Stockholm. Mikhail Nazarovich (Yaroshenko) from Minsk asks: In what way does it differ from the pan-European conference in Helsinki and the Madrid meeting? I have asked my colleague, All-Union Radio commentator Viktor Levin, to answer this question. Viktor Nikolayevich, please.

[Levin] What is the main objective now, in the first stage of the work of this conference, when it is a question of confidence-building measures? In the opinion of the Soviet Union, it is necessary to reach an understanding on large-scale confidence-building measures. In many ways this would be helped by a pledge by all the nuclear powers not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and an international accord not to use armed forces on any account.

It is important to note that the Soviet Union's proposals do not infringe upon anyone. They benefit everyone in the same way. They are honest and, at the same time, effective proposals, the implementation of which could play a very substantial and positive role. As Comrade Gromyko noted on 14 February, we expect the Western countries to react to the Soviet Union's proposals and to work together with us for the cause of peace.

In addition, certain other possible confidence-building measures are being discussed at the Stockholm conference. In particular, in the opinion of the Soviet Union and the other socialist large-scale military exercise could be developed further. An accord on restricting the scale of such exercises and a definite limit on the number of troops taking part in them would be very timely. The question of major movement and re-deployment of armed forces is, in the Soviet Union's opinion, worthy of the most serious attention. This point was made in the Final Act of the pan-European conference about confidence-building measures, and landmarks for further development on this road were noted there. The matter of prior notification of major land exercises was raised; now proposals for prior notification of major air and naval exercises conducted in the sea and airspace adjoining Europe are being proposed for discussion.

As Comrade Gromyko said in Stockholm, the Soviet Union is ready to support confidence-building and security measures that would really work toward a true diminishing of the threat of military confrontation. That is how things stand today. Of course, any advancement at the Stockholm conference, as the discussions that have opened there show, will not be easy. But it is possible. It is precisely this belief in the possibility of a constructive solution to urgent problems that is the basis of the Soviet Union's position. We have gone to Stockholm with honest and constructive intentions, and we are fully determined to see that the Stockholm conference provides a fresh impulse to the process of detente and to the process that was eventually set out in the Helsinki Final Act.

Lebanese Situation

[Lavrentyev] Comrade (Zhurakovskiy) from Krasnodar Kray asks a question about the civil war in Lebanon. He is particularly interested in what caused it and what kind of forces are opposing each other there.

The situation in Lebanon may be simplified in the following manner. On the one hand, there are the right-wing Christian formations, as well as units of the army and police; on the other hand there are the National Patriotic Forces and the Shi'ite Amal movement, which has joined them. Despite attempts to organize a national dialogue, clashes continue because of the provocative actions of external imperialist forces.

It should be emphasized that the present crisis in Lebanon should not be viewed in purely internal political terms, and even less in terms of the religious communities. The historic differences that have been created are merely the background against which the true drama is being played out. Its roots lie in the overall situation that has developed in the Near East as a result of the aggressive actions of Israel and its imperialist patrons. It is precisely they who are fanning the flames of the conflict in Lebanon, striving to distract the Arab peoples and the whole world public from the key problems of a Near East settlement.

One should also speak at this moment of the direct participation by the interventionist forces of the United States and Israel in the direct combat operations against the National-Patriotic Forces of Lebanon. In Arab political circles, it is not being ruled out that this is a prelude to the forced dismemberment of the country into a number of puppet states, completely subordinate to Washington and Tel Aviv.

The Soviet Union's position on this question is clear and principled. We favor an end to imperialist interference in Lebanon's affairs and a settlement of internal political differences in a peaceful way, through a constructive national dialogue among all the sides on the basis of general involvement and of preserving the independence, sovereignty, and territorial unity of Lebanon.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD192100 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 84

["International Observer's Roundtable" program with Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin, political observer; Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, political observer; and Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, All-Union-Radio commentator]

Chernenko, USSR Foreign Ties

[Text] [Levin] Hello, esteemed comrades. The past week has been a very heavy and dramatic one. The Soviet people have lost Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, an outstanding leader of the Leninist type, and this has put its very serious imprint on the whole -- in the full sense of the word -- development of international relations. You are aware that the representatives of more than 100 foreign states came to Moscow for Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's funeral. This was an expression of respect for the memory of the deceased and at the same time it was also a very big event in international life, inasmuch as meetings and conversations were held here which marked, to some extent, the path to the future.

Indeed, the speech by Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the plenum of the CPSU Central Committee spoke very precisely and very clearly about the position of our party and our state. He recalled that the struggle for lasting peace and the freedom and independence of peoples -- this prime foreign policy task of the Soviet Union - was always at the center of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's attention, and under his leadership the Central Committee Politburo and the highest organs of our state power formulated a vigorous foreign policy and carried out a whole range of measures that helped to strengthen both the international role and the international prestige of our state. Our party is indeed fully determined to continue to give paramount importance to the struggle for peace and the struggle to create peaceful conditions for the creative work of the Soviet people in all its foreign policy activities.

[Levin] Comrade Chernenko noted three main directions of the foreign policy activity of our party and state, and it is on these that we shall dwell primarily. He stressed that the success of the cause of preserving and strengthening peace depends to a considerable extent upon how great will be the influence of the socialist countries upon the world arena, and how active, purposeful and coordinated will be their actions.

[Shishlin] Those contacts in Moscow which took place during the days of mourning became a visible expression of the priority importance of our relations with the socialist countries. I have in mind the friendly meetings with the leaders of the states belonging to the Warsaw Treaty, the reception by Comrade Chernenko of other leaders of socialist countries, Comrade Fidel Castro, Truong Chinh, the Vietnamese leader, and also Comrade Tsedenbal, the leader of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the head of the Mongolian State. The continuity of the foreign policy course of our party and of our state, which has taken shape over years, comes out fully in the relations between the Soviet Union and the socialist countries.

[Bovin] What's more, when we speak about the coordination of the socialist countries' foreign policy we have to remember that this is no (?trivial) task, on the one hand to coordinate, to find some common denominator of the various interests of the socialist countries, and on the other to (?find some socialist path) in accordance with the common interests of the socialist community.

USSR-PRC Ties 'Improving'

[Shishlin] And it is indeed precisely this realistic approach that makes it possible to carry out practical work. What's more, this also applies to those efforts which are being undertaken by our party and our state in smoothing out Soviet-Chinese relations.

[Bovin] A positive result has already been built up here -- quite a good one.

[Shishlin] Yes, step by step these relations are nevertheless improving, and I think that the very level, the high level, of the Chinese delegation at the days of mourning in Moscow, and also the talk that took place between Comrade Wan Li, the leader of the Chinese delegation, and Comrade Aliyev, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and member of the Central Committee Politburo, that this indicates the mutual desire of the sides to move in the direction of improving relations. Of course, what I have just said does not mean that there are no difficulties. There still are great difficulties.

[Bovin] Yes, and evidently there is no need here to expect, say, any (?lightning) solutions, any sharp turns: The process is a complicated one, the process is a lengthy one; it is a very serious process, and it will evidently take some definite time. But in my view the trend is marked out quite clearly now, and it is a trend towards the gradual improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations. And we attach very great importance to this, and I hope that our partners in Beijing likewise have an extremely serious attitude toward this.

[Shishlin] Let me give just one concrete example here. A few days ago a Soviet-Chinese trade agreement was signed for 1984. Evidently it will lead to a growth of 60 percent in Soviet-Chinese trade by comparison with the past year, 1983. This is a noticeable step forward although the possibilities here are infinitely broader.

[Levin] On this point, Nikolay Vladimirovich, I would note that in 1983 there was a very noticeable growth by comparison with the previous period.

[Bovin] Yes, but of course when we speak about these economic links, everything is alright, and indeed all this is taking place; but there are of course serious political problems, too, which still divide our states, and there is different understanding of these problems so that overall, one has to look forward with a kind of realistic optimism; that is how I would phrase it.

[Shishlin] Yes, and one does not have to rush.

[Levin] No, one does not have to rush. Indeed, at the plenum Comrade Chernenko said in a clear-cut way that we shall strive for an expansion of cooperation with all socialist countries. This is a very clear and very definite position.

U.S., USSR, C. America Policies

But in this connection I rather think that Comrade Chernenko's meeting with Fidel Castro deserves special attention. Cuba's position now is very difficult and very complicated. After all, Cuba, really speaking, is in the front line of the attack from the United States, and there the whole complex of problems not just of the Caribbean Basin but also of Central America is very clearly discernible.

[Bovin] In recent days there has on a couple of occasions been the fleeting mention in articles of the following thought, that, if, let us suppose, Reagan needs to consolidate his position somewhere on the eve of the elections and, so to speak, carries out something in the way of a Grenada action, which has, so to speak, such a rousing effect on American chauvinism, then perhaps here one might expect some sort of provocative actions against Cuba.

That, then, is the type of thing that has been creeping into the thoughts of American journalists. Well, it is hard to calculate how this would happen, but the very fact that such a thought comes into a person's head sufficiently characterizes this adventurism of American foreign policy.

Well, if one is to speak to the point now, the visit of Shultz to Latin America showed precisely that the Americans will be further stepping up their military aid to the Salvadoran right wing. Indeed American theoreticians on the partisan movement have calculated that it is necessary for a government army to have a preponderance of 10 to 1 over the partisans to guarantee a government victory over the partisans. This means that on the scale of El Salvador, the Salvadoran Army needs to be increased to a little over double its size, and this is the task that is being posed by the Americans and they are planning, so to speak, to allocate quite a lot of money to this cause. And so all in all they are of course going to press in this direction. And there is also the political side of the question.

The point is that elections for the presidency and the vice presidency will take place on 25 March in El Salvador. Well, it would be difficult to call these elections democratic, but there is a fairly complex situation for the Americans in this regard, because the main rivals are the well-known Major d'Aubuisson, one of the leaders of the death squads, and Duarte, who is the other candidate. Thus for the Americans the victory of either appears fairly complicated. If d'Aubuisson wins, then immediately the whole situation, which is indeed to the iad of openly right-wing elements will be laid bare and evidently the American Congress will not swallow this so easily. However, if Duarte wins, he is considered, there in El Salvador, by people such as d'Aubuisson, as almost a red. So they fear that the military will organize a coup and overthrow this Duarte, and that again there will be an extreme right-wing regime, which again is not to the liking of the United States, inasmuch as their aim is some kind of center forces. Thus in general, I think, from the political viewpoint it is an involved situation there at present.

[Levin] Practice shows that, in those cases where Washington believes a real threat to U.S. interests is being created, the United States is not ashamed to bank on extreme right-wing forces. One need only recall the fascist coup in Chile. The same thing can now be seen in the U.S. anti-Nicaraguan policy. After all, Washington is waging an undeclared war against that country, with infiltration of Somozist gangs that are trained and armed by U.S. instructors, with air raids and bombings, with acts of sabotage. According to official figures -- and I stress, according to official figures alone -- the United States is allocating $80 million for the support of the Somozist counterrevolutionary gangs.

Or take the following report: Aircraft and helicopters without identification markings entered Nicaraguan airspace from Honduras on seven occasions between 8 and 12 February. In view of this it was of course quite rightly stated during the talks between Comrade Chernenko and Ortega, the Nicaraguan leader, that Washington is striving to whip up tension, to interfere in the internal affairs of the Central American countries, and to foist its system on them. Proceeding from this Comrade Chernenko declared that the Soviet people firmly support the just cause of the Nicaraguan people, who are upholding the freedom and independence of their motherland.

[Shishlin] Going back to the actual talks with the Cuban and Nicaraguan comrades here in Moscow, one can certainly say that this clear and open demonstration of Soviet solidarity with Cuba and Nicaragua was of course noted in the world. It is a political factor of considerable importance.

[Levin] This line of solidarity with peoples who recently threw off the colonial yoke and who are now being subjected to attacks by the most aggressive forces of imperialism is a stable line in the foreign policy course of the CPSU. It is now being backed up by specific actions and specific deeds.

Peaceful Coexistence With West

Another aspect of foreign policy activity is peaceful coexistence of states with differing social systems. This is also a Leninist principle of foreign policy, to which our party and state are invariably faithful. Last week we witnessed meetings and talks with U.S. Vice President Bush, Prime Minister Thatcher of Great Britain, Chancellor Kohl of the FRG, and so on.

[Bovin] It is interesting to note that while, on the one hand, the people who came to Moscow -- Kohl, Bush, Thatcher and the rest -- did of course do so to express their condolences over the loss that we have suffered, there was on the other hand purely political interest. They wanted to sound out what could change in our policy, to see where things will head. This was of direct political interest to them, of course, especially in the complex situation which has now come about in the world as a result of the U.S. foreign policy course. The fact that Thatcher herself came to Moscow indicates, I would say, serious concern in the West about the possible ultimate consequences of the development of events that has been foisted on the world by the United States. In this respect a certain divergence between the Americans and their West European allies, generally speaking, is showing through. Maybe even "showing through" is not the right expression, because it has simply become clearly visible in a whole number of areas. And now we are witnessing this growing political activity on the part of those countries, including even Britain. This is evidence of concern about the fate of detente. This is causing concern to them. Evidently they wanted to get confirmation that we would continue this course. I do not think that there were any surprises for them here.

[Levin] The Soviet Union consistently advocates detente and the settlement of international problems around the negotiating table. As far as this question, the resolution of controversial international problems, is concerned, the ball is certainly not in our court.

[Bovin] That's just it. They should talk to Reagan. To a certain extent they are holding these talks. But unfortunately, these efforts are not producing real results at the moment, although there is this talk of dialogue. No matter what American speech you look at now -- be it by Reagan or Shultz -- there is always one and the same assertion: We are for dialogue, we are for dialogue, we are for talks. This is all repeated a thousand times. We are also in favor of dialogue. We are also in favor of talks. But there has to be something to talk about.

[Levin] And agree on.

[Bovin] From what positions should the talks be held? In this respect, I do not unfortunately see any positive changes in the Americans' position at the moment. There have been no such changes. This is the main thing. This is the main impediment preventing us from making any progress at the moment.

[Shishlin] I want to return to the talks that were held with the West European leaders. A certain question arises here, of course. How real is this concern? I think that this concern is absolutely real.

[Bovin] Reagan has simply frightened them.

[Shishlin] Yes.

[Bovin] He has really frightened them.

[Shishlin] How real is the interest of the European states in maintaining normal relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries? I think that their interest is quite real.

[Bovin] I shall cite one small example. In spite of all the complexities and difficulties that we had last year with the FRG, for example, trade turnover increased by 19.7 percent. That is the other side of the question. In other words, certain elements of detente -- the economic roots of it -- have been preserved. This is natural.

[Shishlin] The progress being made in a number of areas in relations between the socialist and capitalist states -- I am speaking now of the West European countries and the countries of East Europe -- does not of course displace the crucial problem of our times from the forefront of international politics. This is the problem of overcoming the arms race.

'Crucial Problem' of Arm Race

[Levin] I would like to give this example. On his way home to the United States after his visit to Moscow, Bush made a short stopover in Luxembourg. There he met Colette Flesch, minister of foreign affairs. And she, the minister of foreign affairs, later said that West Europe is worried by various aspects of U.S. foreign policy. The Luxembourg press said directly, openly, that the visit by Bush took place at a time when the relations between the United States and its NATO partners are far from at their best. These are echoes of the processes that are taking place literally in all West European countries.

Take Thatcher -- you will remember that at the beginning of the month she visited Hungary. It was her first trip to a socialist country and was an expression of a certain striving to develop relations with socialist countries. Also Kohl, the FRG chancellor, is trying all the time to emphasize the striving to develop the relations. As far as public opinion in West European countries is concerned, Bush was met at Luxembourg International Airport by demonstrators who chanted: No to U.S. intervention in Central America; Hands off Nicaragua; Withdraw the missiles from Europe. This mood is very clear and I think that of all these meetings the talks with Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, deserve, perhaps, particular attention. Quite recently Trudeau visited a number of socialist countries. He is actively advocating constructive negotiations between East and West.

[Shishlin] Yes, but I would like to add to what has been said, so that the listeners understand us properly, that yes, the Soviet Union is in favor of businesslike relations in various spheres with West European countries, Canada, and not just with those countries. The stand of the Soviet Union is in no way that of all-out boycott with regard to the United States. We are prepared to have talks and to come to an arrangement with the United States, too, if there are on the part of the United States corresponding actions that would meet the interests of international security and would correspond with the normal conduct of a great power in a nuclear age. The only thing that we do not, of course, agree to is for the negotiations to be conducted from a position of strength, on an inequal basis, for them to have the character simply of covering up practical plans of the United States aimed at securing for itself a dominant position in the world.

[Levin] On this account it was said absolutely clearly and distinctly at the plenum of the Central Committee of our party that we are not striving for military superiortiy, we do not want to impose our wishes on others, but we shall not allow military equality to be broken. And, besides, this aim is once again being achieved through concerted actions with socialist countries. We have already said that in response to the deployment of American medium-range missiles in Europe, concrete joint steps were taken with the GDR and Czechoslovak Governments and that other socialist countries support these countermeasures that we have been compelled to take. But we are not striving to trade this path; we are striving to tread the path toward achieving concrete arrangements.

And we are deeply convinced that now the adoption of large-scale measures to consolidate confidence among countries could play a very positive role. We stress once again that all constructive proposals, initiatives of the Soviet Union aimed at curbing the arms race, reducing the level of military opposition, are still valid. These proposals reflect our fundamental interests and are fair, do not encroach upon anyone, but correspond to the interests of literally all states.

[Bovin] That is true, and at the same time we certainly do not look upon them as some form of ultimatums which we issue. We are willing to discuss all constructive proposals including those of our partners: We are ready to look at them with the greatest attention, the important thing only is this, that everyone should try to understand each other's interests, should try to understand the interests of each side's security; and this general course, this general line toward peaceful coexistence, of course it includes a kind of line toward dampening down situations of conflict that exist in the world; they do exist, there is the Near East which has already been heating up world politics for many years on end, and which is now again in a fairly alarming stage, if one views the events in Lebanon.

Lebanon Crisis Reviewed

[Shishlin] However, the true picture is this: There are, of course, also internal elements in the crisis in Lebanon itself because the country is divided by religious and political differences. There are on one side, the government of Lebanon, the president of Lebanon, the right-wing Christian forces; and on the other side, there are the Shi'ite Amal organization, the Progressive Socialist Party headed by Walid Junblatt. As you know, military clashes are taking place all the time at present in Lebanon and in particular in Beirut. However, internal causes still remain internal causes and they to some extent derive their white-hot nature from the presence of foreign forces in Lebanon, above all those of the United States and Israel.

[Bovin] The United States has brought in its Marines, it has organized these multinational forces. But why? In order to stabilize the situation there? However, what has happened? Not only have they failed to stabilize the situation, quite the reverse, they have evoked a new flare-up of what is essentially a civil war, not to mention that they have lost their own people there.

[Levin] At present there are many ideas being put forward on the settlement of the crisis in Lebanon and in particular there is an eight-point plan. This plan first of all stipulates the repudiation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May, a one-sided agreement imposed on Lebanon. There are various opinions about the origin of this plan. But the fact itself is quite demonstrative: It shows that those methods used by the United States with its partner and ally, Israel, in Lebanon, and in particular methods...

[Bovin, interrupting] ...of exerting pressure by force -- they do not bring results.

[Levin, continuing] They do not bring results. This means that it is necessary to look for solutions by other means. And, you see, the experience in Lebanon indeed is important literally for the entire world. In the present time -- a troubled time, and a complex time -- I think that there is only one conclusion to be drawn from events in Lebanon: The solution of complex problems, of international problems, has to be sought not by the way of military force but at the negotiation table, it has to be looked for on paths of cooperation or else the situation gets out of hand and gets potentially very dangerous.

[Bovin] And this line, in favor of negotiations, in favor of cooperation is also our principled line, the line of the Soviet Union, which we consistently advocate in the international arena.

Chernenko Speech, Policy

[Levin] And this line was very clearly confirmed at the February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. The speech of Comrade Chernenko at this plenum has met with a very broad response in the world and has shown that the peace-loving and purposeful policy of the Soviet Union enjoys the widest support of the international public. I shall give you a few examples. The Bulgarian paper RABOTNICHESKO DELO notes that Comrade Chernenko's statement that at present, in the extremely tense international situation, the Soviet Union will still continue the policy of peace -- a firm and just peace for all peoples, large and small -- is exceptionally important. In its turn, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, the central organ of the SED, says that the speech of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee is evidence that the thoughts of the Soviet Union are focused on preserving peace and protecting mankind against the threat of a nuclear disaster. The Soviet Union, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND writes, has come forward with great initiatives of principal importance and peoples of the world expect Western countries to respond to them.

It has to be said that the speech of Comrade Chernenko has evoked also a very wide response in capitalist countries. The British THE TIMES writes that the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee underlined the continuity of the policy of the Soviet leadership. The Soviet Union will continue the peace policy; Moscow confirms its adherence to talks, but to honest talks, on the basis of equality and equal security. The American THE WASHINGTON POST writes that the Soviet Union has confirmed its readiness for talks. A very interesting statement, a very demonstrative statement, was made on his return to Delhi from Moscow by Narasimha Rao, minister of external affairs of India. He said that in Moscow we sensed a firm determination to continue the same policy that the Soviet Union pursued under the leadership of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. This was stated clearly by Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet Union will steadfastly strive for the set goals. We, Narasimha Rao said, support the appeal of the Soviet leadership for world peace and for peaceful international cooperation for the welfare of all peoples and we wish the Soviet Union great success in this noble task.

It is fully justified to say that the purposeful policy of peace pursued by the Soviet Union meets with the ardent approval of the international public. Peoples see in it the determining factor of the normalization of international relations. This shows the high authority of the consistent, Leninist, foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state. This shows that our Leninist policy enjoys the support of the broadest circles of the international public. The voice of authority of the Soviet Union which was heard in the speech delivered by Comrade Chernenko at the February plenum, gives the peoples of the world a hope for the strengthening of peace, and that it will be possible to overcome the present negative stage in the development of international relations. And the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are doing everything possible for these hopes to be justified, and become a reality.

And we end our program with this. Thank you, esteemed comrades, for listening, and all the best.

USSR PEACE POLICY, LEBANESE EVENTS VIEWED

PM191817 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Tomas Kolesnichenko "International Review"]

[Text] On 14 February, in deep sorrow, our people saw off on his last journey Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, outstanding figure of Lenin's party and of the Soviet state and a tireless fighter for peace and communism.

Representatives of the majority of foreign countries -- state and government leaders, party leaders and public figures -- traveled to Moscow to honor his radiant memory. This reflects the high international prestige of the CPSU and the tremendous role and influence of the USSR in the contemporary world.

The Soviet Union, as a great socialist power, is fully cognizant of its responsibility to the peoples for the preservation and consolidation of peace. The foreign policy course of our party and of the Soviet state accords with the fundamental interests and aspirations of mankind. This is reflected in the peace program for the eighties put forward by the party congresses, and in the energetic daily activity of the Communist Party and of its Central Committee. The world press is stressing with satisfaction the continuity of Soviet policy which was confirmed by the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum. The mass media note that the Soviet Union's foreign policy course is devoid of lurches and zigzags which are frequently characteristic of capitalist states during a change of leaders.

Specific Measures Are Needed

At this time excerpts from the speeches of K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum and at the mourning meeting on Red Square are being published on the front pages of foreign newspapers. Here, special attention has been directed to his statement that "in the present, extremely tense international situation, we clearly declare: the Soviet Union will continue the policy of peace -- lasting and just peace for all peoples -- great and small." There is not a single political observer who has not singled out the utterance of the CPSU Central Committee general secretary which confirmed out readiness for negotiations, "provided that they are honest negotiations on the basis of equality and identical security. Stressing that Soviet foreign policy is flexible and, at the same time, principled, those same Western observers note the appeal by the leaders of our party and government for a constructive dialogue with the leaders of the West. The Soviet Union does not need military superiority, and it does not intend to dictate its will to others, but it will not permit anyone to disrupt the military balance that has been achieved. And those who are pursuing a policy of militarism, of a senseless arms race, and of interference in the internal affairs of other states need to renounce this policy and replace it with a policy of peace and cooperation.

Broad opportunities for constructive work in favor of peace on a bilateral and multilateral basis were vividly manifested during the meetings that have taken place in recent days in Moscow between the CPSU Central Committee general secretary and other Soviet leaders and the leaders of a number of socialist, capitalist and developing states, and of fraternal parties. In particular, numerous international comments have been generated by K.U. Chernenko's conversation with G. Bush. Those words of the CPSU Central Committee general secretary are being singled out in which he said that Soviet-American relations must be built on the basis of equality and identical security, mutual consideration of legitimate interests, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. A display of practical readiness by the U.S. side to adhere to these principles would make it possible to set about rectifying relations between the two countries.

The Soviet Union is resolutely in favor of reaching agreement on large-scale confidence-building measures. If, for instance, the United States were to pledge, as the Soviet Union has done, not to make first use of nuclear weapons, this would have a substantial influence on the world climate. An international accord not to use armed force in general would also be a confidence-building measure of a major scale. If the NATO countries were to agree with this proposal of the Warsaw Pact member states, a broad path would be opened up for negotiations and for the peaceful solution of vexed questions.

Much could be done in this direction by the Stockholm conference, the first stage of which is devoted precisely to working out confidence and security-building measures. Unfortunately this is in no way being promoted by the stance which has been adopted by some of its participants which are the ringleaders of the NATO bloc. They are seeking to evade discussion of very important military-political measures for strengthening confidence and security, to emasculate the content of the conference, and to set it on a narrow track which bypasses the chief problems.

When putting forward the NATO six-point "program," its authors laid stress on obtaining by legal methods what amounts to intelligence data about the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries. It is to be supposed that the NATO people are sufficiently shrewd as not to nurture any particular hopes for the successess of such "proposals" which once again are designed for obtaining unilateral advantages. And here, in order to divest themselves of responsibility, the authors of these proposals, are passing the buck. The head of the U.S. delegation, J. Goodby, in an interview with the Stockholm newspaper DAGENS NYHETER, was in a hurry to call into question the Soviet proposals. "They are not encouraging," he said with affected sorrow. "The Soviet Union is giving with one hand and taking away with the other." And in Mr Goodby's view, "Everyone must receive something." Maybe he hopes that the Pentagon will receive the kind of information about the Soviet Union which will make it easier to target Pershing and cruise missiles against it? If that is the case, it will have to wait an awful long time.

What is needed are specific measures, accords, and a renunciation of the position-of-strength policy and not empty promises and hypocritical rhetoric. For instance, "force and dialogue have long gone hand in hand" in the United States. It recently became known that back in 1954 that plans were drawn up in Washington for a nuclear attack on a Vietnamese patriotic forces which were besieging the city of Dien Bien Phu which was occupied by the French. When this idea was rejected, a plan was prepared for an operation against the Vietnamese forces using seven U.S. divisions. As is known, in the course of time all secrets come out into the open. But how many more times will mankind have to learn with alarm that through the fault of the reckless policy of the aggressive forces of imperialism, which creates hotbeds of bloody violence and military conflagration now in one region of the world, and now in another, it has been only a hair's breadth away from nuclear catastrophe [ono nakhodilos na voloske ot yadernoy katastrofy]?

These same circles are adding twists to the endless spiral of the arms race which lies like a heavy burden upon the shoulders of our planet's people. The private U.S. research organization World Watch recently published a report entitled "The State of the World in 1984." It says that, world military spending last year reached $663 billion. This is approximately 20 times more than in the thirties. As of 1978, military spending had been increasing 4 percent per annum whereas the annual growth of the world capitalist economy is only 1.7 percent, the authors of the report note. Growing militarization, the document points out, is undermining the economic structure of the capitalist world.

It is no secret that one of the aims that the strategists of imperialism are pursuing in cranking up the arms race is an attempt to place an insupportable burden on the economy of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and to wreck their peaceful plans for economic development. But, as a result, this would boomerang against themselves. In an editorial article entitled "Phony Self-Reliance," the Indian newspaper TIMES OF INDIA writes that the U.S. President has underestimated the economic potential of the CEMA member states and has decided that he would be able to achieve success by exerting economic pressure on them. Yet UN data attest that the socialist countries are continuing to demonstrate higher rates of development than the West. This, the newspaper believes, has given no small impetus to the policy, worldwide, of resisting Washington's attempts to establish its military and economic dominance.

"A new round of the arms race cannot be tolerated. The requirement of the day is for a constructive East-West dialogue. Politicians who fail to realize this cannot occupy places these days either in government or in parliaments. ...Today, as never before, it is necessary to make use of all opportunities for disarmament. They are far more real and promising than the old senseless notion of security through military superiority." These words are taken from the book "Generals Against Arms Upgrading" which was published recently in Hamburg. Its authors -- 12 former NATO generals and admirals -- insistently warn of the dangers of a continued arms race. They adduce cogent proof that the siting of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe "is sharply increasing the threat of war."

While the NATO generals have now realized this, the peoples of the world have long since been demanding most vociferously: Stay the hand of the imperialist instigators of war and eliminate the threat of nuclear war.

Lenin's foreign policy accords precisely with these aspirations of the peoples. The Soviet leadership firmly declares: The CPSU even in today's situation will not deviate from the peace program adopted by its congresses. The Soviet Union does not encroach on the security of any country -- be it in the West or in the East. It wishes to live in peace with all countries and to implement the principle of peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems.

The Impotence of Force

War-torn Lebanon has once again provided a lesson in elementary political knowledge: Terms cannot be imposed upon the people of another country if they offend the people's national dignity and if they are dictated by an aggressor. And a second thing: All attempts to impose these terms by force even if this force is used by a power that is incomparably mightier, are doomed to failure. Washington above all has been taught this lesson. It is precisely the United States, in pursuit of its selfish aims, that made Lebanon sign the so-called "peace agreement" of 17 May which legitimatized the Israeli occupation of the country and its de facto partition. It is precisely the United States that decided to compel the people of Lebanon by brute force to submit to this shackling treaty having devised broad measures for providing military support for its terms under cover of the "multinational forces" and of the U.S. naval armada.

There is particular cynicism in the fact that all this was passed off as a new "peace initiative," as a "settlement" process, in which Washington plays the main role. And this is the result: A new explosion of discord and internecine war has occurred in Lebanon. U.S. policy is in a total impasse. Washington is feverishly discussing what to do next -- to continue in the eyes of the whole world to get itself openly drawn into a war against Arabs on Arab soil or to impart, by maneuvering, a semblance of respectability and promise to its policy while retaining the essence of that policy. Meanwhile, what is happening is a mixture of the two. The barbaric shelling of Lebanese territory by ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet is continuing and overt support is being displayed for Israel and the 17 May "agreement." At the same time complex political intrigues are being woven and rather clumsy maneuvers are being undertaken. For instance, those such as the announced "withdrawal" of U.S. Marines from Lebanon. As THE NEW YORK TIMES observed the other day, "the Reagan administration needed all of 5 days to admit that the transfer of troops from the vicinity of Beirut airport to the U.S. ships is nothing more than a 'redeployment' by 3 miles." The pullout of Marines from Lebanon, which had been trumpeted for the purpose of soothing the U.S. public, proved to be a tactical move according to the principle of "by moving away, stay put." Moreover, Washington is preparing to send additional troops to Lebanon. When the U.S. President was asked by journalists a few days ago "point blank" whether this was true, he replied: "Yes, but it is a question of ground forces and not Marines and, furthermore, these will be specialists in particular fields to do with terrorism and the like."

An extremely significant utterance! In what way are "ground forces" better than Marines? From the experience of the Vietnam adventure it is known that it was precisely in this way that the United States began to be drawn into a full-scale war.

Such plans are generating growing indignation throughout the world, including the United States. They are even leading to dissension in the camp of the Republicans who fear that in election year the expansion of U.S. military interference in Lebanon will turn into a defeat for their party. The reception given by the Republicans to K. Dam, U.S. deputy secretary of state, at a meeting with senators and congressmen was very typical. As THE WASHINGTON POST reports, the "members of the President's party assailed Dam and the administration as a whole with a squall of fierce criticism." During the meeting with Dam, Republican Congressman N. Gingrich asked the legislators present to raise their hands if they agreed with the administration's course in Lebanon. "Not a single hand went up," the newspaper attests. It is not therefore surprising that the most zealous supporters of the use of force in Lebanon among the present administration are finding the ground collapsing under their feet. Here, for example, is what the well known U.S. commentator A. Lewis writes: "One of the unexpected losses in Lebanon was the reputation of Secretary of State G. Shultz... He defended the necessity for the bombardment of the mountain regions of Lebanon by naval artillery and this proved to be a senseless display of destructive force. The secretary of state lost his standing [kachestva] and also lost the weight he carried in the government."

And one more aspect: The U.S. military actions in Lebanon and the shelling of Syrian positions are creating tension not just in this region but are threatening peace as a whole. Therefore the explosive situation in the Near East must be eliminated as quickly as possible. However, there is only one way to do this: an immediate cessation of the U.S.-Israeli aggression against the patriotic forces of Lebanon, the settlement of the Palestinian problem, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories, and the granting -- to all peoples living in this region -- of firm guarantees of peace and security. There is no other way.

CHERNENKO CITED ON FOREIGN POLICY 'CONTINUITY'

LD181945 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 18 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video talk by Valentin Zorin, political observer of Soviet Central Television]

[Text] Hello, comrades. The determination expressed by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to ensure continuity of policy draws particular attention abroad. Continuity is not an abstraction; it is a living real matter, Comrade Chernenko said. Its essence is primarily that we should move unhaltingly forward, leaning on all our previous achievements. Continuity characterizes also the foreign policy of the Soviet state. This policy is not a time-serving nature, it does not aim at short-term gains. It is based on the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems. This was once again demonstrated when the Soviet Union proposed a series of major initiatives of fundamental importance. These concern various aspects of the problem of ending the arms race, of untangling the difficult knots of world politics. The quintessence of these proposals is the desire to consolidate peace. This requires first of all a repudiation of the attempts to disturb the existing military-strategic balance, an end to the increase of nuclear armaments, and undertaking efforts towards reducing these armaments. However, so far Washington has been trying to substitute real actions in this direction with rhetoric unsupported by concrete steps. At the same time attempts are made to create an impression among international public opinion that as it were, talks are being obstructed by the Soviet position. But the world knows quite well whose fault it is that the Geneva talks were discontinued, and whose missiles are being sited near the Soviet borders.

On its part, the Soviet leadership has reiterated its readiness to hold talks. However, these must be honest talks based on equality and equal security, on mutual respect for legitimate interests and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

If the American side finds itself ready to adhere in practice to these principles, it would be possible to begin straightening out the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. How urgent this task is needs no stressing. It goes far beyond the boundaries of bilateral relations. Its solution is in the interests of all who cherish peace and the security of peoples.

CHERNENKO CONTINUES USSR 'ACTIVE PEACE POLICY'

LD182147 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1225 GMT 18 Feb 84

[From 'International Review' program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Excerpts] Hello comrades. In the last few days the attention of the whole world has been riveted to Moscow; the Soviet people saw Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov off on his last journey. The speeches by general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, at the special plenum of the party Central Committee and on Red Square removed the grounds for all kinds of speculations and guesswork in circulation in the West. They pointed clearly and firmly to the continuity of the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state. The policy of the Soviet Union will continue to be consistently and firmly based on the principle of peaceful coexistence of states with different social structure. It will be an active peace policy. The Soviet Union extends the hand of good will to all states which want by means of practical deeds and not verbal declarations, as certain bourgeois representatives were accustomed to do, to promote an easing of tension and establishment of an atmosphere of confidence.

At the same time, the Soviet Union is ready to give a decisive rebuff to attempts to break the military balance which has been achieved in the world. We will concern ourselves with strengthening our defense capacity so that we have sufficient means to cool the hot heads of militant anti-communists.

In Western capitals, especially in Washington, now frequent recourse is being made to demagogic outwardly peace-loving phraseology. Representatives of the American Administration keep on saying that they are allegedly ready to continue the dialogue with the Soviet Union on arms limitation, deliberately concealing the fact that with their practical actions, the deployment of nuclear missiles in Western Europe close to the Soviet frontiers, they have consciously done everything to wreck the talks. Facts tell that in the White House they have not renounced their course toward achieving a unilateral military advantage over the Soviet Union.

Washington has planned a major increase in the military budget for next financial year, regardless of the fact that this will lead to a further increase in the state debt of the United States.

The extra funds will go for manufacture of new types of lethal weapons which the Pentagon intends to get its hands on: new MX intercontinental missiles; Trident atomic submarines, with nuclear missiles on board; B-1 heavy bombers; M-1 Abrams tanks. In chasing the mirage of military superiority, the Reagan administration is casting more and more billions on the altar of the Moloch of war, but do Americans feel any more secure as a result of this? No, the mad arms race is provoking growing unease, even nervousness, in the United States itself. I was able to convince myself of this personally during a trip through the United States as a member of a delegation of the USSR-United States Society. People of different professions, different social situations, spoke with alarm of the fact that there was a growing threat of confrontation between our two countries. They advocated normalization of relations, the earliest achievement of agreement on limiting nuclear armaments.

Washington cannot but reckon with these moods, especially now in the year of the coming presidential elections. Hence the statements of alleged readiness for dialogue with the Soviet Union. It would, however, be much more useful if the American Administration did not restrict itself just to verbal assurances, but took small, maybe, but concrete, steps, such as would testify to its desire to reach agreement.

USSR POLICY OF 'INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM' NOTED

LD202216 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Commentary by Vladimir Tsvetov, political observer of Central Television and All-Union Radio]

[Text] Peace and independence, peace and freedom: these concepts cannot be separated from each other. While guns of the U.S. battleship "New Jersey" fire on Lebanon and bombs and missiles of the U.S. 6th Fleet's aircraft burst on the Lebanese soil, while Israeli tanks crush the Lebanese land, independence and freedom will not come to Lebanon. While U.S. military ships and planes threaten Nicaragua with incursion, and bandits hired with U.S. money plunder this country, Nicaraguan workers cannot consider their independence and freedom secure.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin spoke about the indivisibility of peace and independence, and peace and freedom. He also said that capital is an international force and in order to conquer it an international union of the workers and their international brotherhood is necessary. At every stage of world development, Soviet foreign policy moves along a course scientifically substantiated by Lenin and tested by revolutionary practice. The continuity of the party's policy consists in this.

The continuity of the program of actions directed toward the strengthening of international solidarity among people of labor and for the protection of peace, independence, and freedom is reflected in the speech of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the February plenum of the party's Central Committee. Comrade Chernenko said: One of the bases of the foreign policy of our party and the Soviet state has been and will be solidarity with peoples who have thrown off the yoke of colonial dependence and started along the road of independent development -- in particular, of course, Comrade Chernenko underlined, with peoples who have to repulse attacks from the aggressive forces of imperialism, which creates in one region of the world and then in another, dangerous hotbeds of bloody violence and military conflagrations. Being on the side of the just cause of the peoples and coming out in favor of the removal of such hotbeds, Comrade Chernenko pointed out, is today also a necessary and important direction of the struggle for lasting peace on earth. It is also necessary and important because the elimination of hotbeds of bloody violence and military conflagrations, like the Lebanese or Nicaraguan ones, is a major guarantee of success in the struggle against neocolonialism. You see, peace and independence, and peace and freedom are inseparable from each other.

FOREIGN REACTION TO CHERNENKO 'CONSISTENT' LINE

PM201555 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Roundup of reports by own correspondent L. Kuznetsov and TASS: "Example of Good Will"]

[Text] 17 Feb -- Reactions to the results of the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the speeches made by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the plenum and at the funeral meeting on Red Square continue to arrive from all corners of the globe.

The Soviet Union's determination, in the current complex and extremely tense international situation, to do everything to maintain and consolidate peace and save mankind from the threat of nuclear war is stressed. Prominent politicians and public figures of various countries and the press note that, while consistently advocating the peaceful solution of all disputed international problems and the expansion and deepening of mutually advantageous cooperation, the USSR at the same time resolutely rebuffs the imperialist forces' attempts to upset the existing military-strategic balance in the world.

The Soviet Union clearly and precisely confirmed the continuity and constructiveness of its foreign policy, whose pivot is to consolidate peace and avert the threat of nuclear war, the Czechoslovak RUDE PRAVO writes. This genuinely peace-loving policy meets the aspirations of all the planet's people. It is warmly supported by the peoples of the socialist community countries. The Soviet Union sets an example of good will to all states which wish to promote a reduction in tension and the establishment of an atmosphere of trust by practical deeds.

K.U. Chernenko's speeches at the CPSU Central Committee plenum and the funeral meeting provided a vivid reflection of the consistent, principled, and truly Leninist political line of the CPSU, whose chief guideline has always been adherence to Marxism-Leninism, Bulgaria's RABOTNICHESKO DELO notes. The CPSU Central Committee general secretary confirmed that the USSR's foreign policy course is a course of peace. In the current tense situation, the peoples are pinning their hopes on the consistent struggle of the USSR and the socialist community for the unswerving implementation of the principle of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems, for peace, and against the arms race unleashed by imperialism.

The results of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum and K.U. Chernenko's election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee are the chief topics of the leading U.S. press organs. The U.S. mass media stress that the Soviet Union has rapidly completed the period of organizational changes in the highest link of the party leadership and ensured the continuity of foreign and domestic policy. The press notes that the U.S. Administration expected K.U. Chernenko's election to the leading post in the CPSU, in view of the prominent position which he occupied for many years in the party's leading link and the great experience of organizational and theoretical work which he possesses.

K.U. Chernenko's speech at the plenum attracted considerable attention from the U.S. press. The mass media stress that, in its thrust and tone, this speech is evidence of the complete continuity of the course of the Soviet Union's party and state leadership, both in domestic matters and in foreign policy. A number of newspapers focus attention on the fact that the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's speech at the plenum contains an appeal to further improve economic management and to bring order and discipline into everything. In this connection, the press organs write that this trend coincides with the course pursued under Yu.V. Andropov's leadership.

Providing broad comment on the foreign policy section of K.U. Chernenko's speech at the plenum, the U.S. press notes that it provided confirmation of the USSR's principled line vis-a-vis the West, including the United States. It is stressed particularly that the Soviet Union's adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence with capitalist countries is accompanied by determination on the part of Moscow to further strengthen the country's defense capability and seek to maintain the military balance.

The U.S. press cites remarks made by U.S. Vice President G. Bush about his meeting with K.U. Chernenko in Moscow. In particular, they stress his words that the conversation with the Soviet Leader was meaningful, calm in tone, and frank. During the conversation, G. Bush said, the need to shift Soviet-American relations onto more constructive lines was stated in general terms.

The State Department reacted to K.U. Chernenko's speech with a statement which says that Washington welcomes the support for the principle of solving international problems by means of talks, expressed in the Soviet leader's speech.

Nonetheless, the authors of many articles in the bourgeois press, continuing the earlier line of fueling international tension, repeat the standard formulas of the Reagan administration about the need to "rely on strength" in relations with the Soviet Union.

The CPSU Central Committee general secretary, the West German FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE writes, said that the USSR will continue to pursue the policy of peace -- a lasting and just peace for all peoples. He appealed to the West for honest talks on the basis of equality and identical security. At the same time, the Soviet leader stressed that the Soviet Union will not allow the achieved military balance to be upset and will strengthen its defense capability.

The Soviet Union is ready for honest talks on the basis of equality and identical security, France's LE MONDE states. At the same time, the CPSU Central Committee general secretary stressed that the Soviet Union cannot be intimidated by threats and that its defense is strong. Moscow requests that the West abandon the attempts to destroy the existing military balance in the world.

K.U. Chernenko's election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee is absolutely logical, the Swiss LA TRIBUNE DE GENEVE notes, commenting on the plenum's results. The CPSU leader, another Swiss newspaper TAGES ANZEIGER writes in this connection, possesses great experience of work in various sectors of the national economy, including in the sphere of economics, culture, and also foreign policy. The newspaper the NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG stresses the determination with which K.U. Chernenko advocates ensuring working for people's interests and protecting the environment and calls for a struggle against any manifestations of bureaucracy and for the active development of socialist democracy.

K.U. Chernenko, the Algerian EL MOUDJAHID writes, is a very experienced CPSU figure. Paying great attention to K.U. Chernenko's speech at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum the Algerian newspapers note particularly those passages in it which says that the CPSU is doing everything necessary to maintain the steady pace of industrial production growth, successfully fulfill the food program, increase the masses' labor activeness, and implement measures aimed at improving the Soviet people's living standard.

The Japanese press, continuing its broad comments on K.U. Chernenko's speech at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum, draws attention to the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's statement on his determination to continue by collective efforts the work started in domestic and foreign policy under Yu.V. Andropov's leadership. It is stressed that, on foreign policy questions, the Soviet Union will be true to the fundamental principals of its policy. Prime Minister Y. Nakasone expressed the hope that the Soviet Union and the United States together with other countries will make efforts to continue nuclear disarmament and reduce international tension.

The Philippines newspaper BULLETIN TODAY, one of the country's major papers, draws attention to the fact that K.U. Chernenko reaffirmed that the USSR firmly adheres in its policy to the principle of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems.

PRC, U.S. MEDIA COMMENT ON CHERNENKO, USSR POLICY

PM210945 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Purposeful Peace Policy"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union, fully cognizant of its responsibility to the peoples for the the preserving and strengthening peace, is conducting a consistent and purposeful struggle for peace and international security, curbing the arms race, and staving off the threat of nuclear war. This thought is central to items from the foreign media, which are continuing to comment widely on the results of the extraordinary plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the speech by K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the plenum, and the funeral meeting in Red Square.

Chinese press reports stress the need expressed by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to ensure policy continuity. They point out that there will be no backtracking in Soviet foreign policy and that the USSR, in advocating the peaceful resolution of all international disputes through negotiation, intends at the same time to continue to strengthen its defense capability and will not permit the military equilibrium that has been achieved to be smashed.

The U.S. press, reporting K.U. Chernenko's meeting with U.S. Vice President G. Bush, notes that the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee pointed to the need to build Soviet-U.S. relations on the basis of equality, identical security, mutual consideration for both states' legitimate interests, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The U.S. media stress that the Soviet leader directly linked the possibility of improving Soviet-U.S. relations to a demostration of practical readiness on the part of the United States to stick to thse very principles in its policy. In a TV interview given on his return from Moscow to Washington by H. Baker, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, he characterized K.U. Chernenko as a man who "really puts leadership into practice and knows how to do things." "K.U. Chernenko sets out his thoughts and assessments clearly," H. Baker stated. "He conducted the talk calmly and did not strive for confrontation."

Simultaneously the U.S. press notes that Washington can hardly count on straightening out relations with Moscow without observing in practice the principles of equality and identical security.

LEADER TALKS WITH CHERNENKO REFLECT DETENTE NEED

LD192012 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1515 GMT 19 Feb 84

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by international affairs observer Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] Hello, comrades. We have just been through some sad and difficult days. As it is, the death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov confirmed the authority of our party and state leader and drew powerful attention to the vital international problems -- problems to which Yuriy Vladimirovich devoted so much effort, creativity, and energy seeking solutions. But today there need be no guessing about the nature of Soviet foreign policy in the years ahead. It has been, and remains characterized by continuity. This was confirmed authoritatively by the plenum of the party Central Committee and in the speech delivered at the plenum by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Let me reiterate: CPSU foreign policy remains long-term [prognozirovannaya], sincere, and consistent. The foreign heads of state who were in Moscow during the past week could draw the same conclusion.

Of course the mourning period did not permit extensive talks. Still, the conversations which took place were not at all a matter of mere protocol. These conversations held substance.

For example, U.S. Vice President Bush said after his conversation with Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko that the conversation was held in a constructive and fruitful atmosphere. He welcomed the decision of the plenum of the CPSU Central Committee which emphasized the unfailing determination of the Soviet Union to seek a peaceful solution for contentious international problems by means of serious, constructive, and businesslike talks.

Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister of Great Britain, made some interesting remarks in a press conference following her conversation with Comrade Chernenko. She said: While working hard on the disarmament talks, we lost sight of the question of establishing broader mutual understnaing. The first part of this statement is, of course, disputable, regarding the efforts of the West on disarmament, but the second part of the statement is certainly indisputable.

A generally positive description of the conversations which took place in Moscow was given by many foreign state leaders -- by Kohl, Trudeau, Pertini, and very many others. And I repeat: there is rich food for thought now -- of course, for those leaders who came to Moscow, but also for those who did not.

The international situation as a whole looks at the same time paradoxical. Let me guide your attention to certain phenomena. Take the arms race. Both the Soviet Union and the United States possess undoubted capability of inflicting unacceptable damage upon one another. Nevertheless, the arms race has been acclerated anew as a consequence of the massive increase in U.S. military programs. The requested U.S. military budget for 1985 is over $313 billion. This represents an increase of $47 billion compared with 1984.

Take another aspect of international relations, which is also quite paradoxical; The number of conflict situations in the world is not only not diminishing; it is actually increasing. In recent days there has been a new flare-up of active military engagements between Iran and Iraq. Clearly Tehran intends to mark the latest anniversary of the anti-shah revolution by attacking its neighbor. The Republic of South Africa is exerting massive political and military pressure on Mozambique and Angola. The aim here also lies in the neighborhood: to preserve for itself Namibia with its very rich uranium deposits, and in the long run to undermine the progressive regimes in Maputu and Luanda. In connection with these conflicts and their growing number there is much talk of restraint, particularly in Washington. However, when it comes to politics in action, in fact there is no sign of Washington's attempts to use only methods of force in international affairs diminishing. Washington goes on trying to be the side which sets the pieces in the game of world politics, thus to create a situation advantageous for itself.

I do not wish to appear to be saying that the world today is painted in only one color. There are, indeed, some positive shades in international affairs. The Stockholm conference is in progress, as you know. The first round will end on 16 March. It is true that it will hardly be distinguished by great results. The Vienna talks on reducing the armaments and armed forces in central Europe are to resume on 16 March.

Useful economic links between states are developing. In particular, we have good prospects for increasing the goods turnover with capitalist countries such as Finland, West Germany, Itlay, France, and many others. It is pleasant to note that Soviet-Chinese trade is also increasing. The new Soviet-Chinese trade agreement for 1984 envisages a 60 percent growth compared with last year.

These forceful shades in international politics do not in themselves change the essence of the situation, of course. It remains dangerous and alarming. It naturally gives rise to much trouble and concern. Therefore it is only natural that in Moscow, during the conversations, we encountered constant appeals for dialogue, for cooperation and talks. It would not be fair to say that these were mere words unsupported by any political will. Many politicians, apart from the democratic public opinion, realize that the international situation has become quite dangerously overheated and that it is necessary to undertake steps of some kind in order to reverse the development of events from growing tension toward a decrease in tension -- or, speaking more specifically, simply towards detente.

'WELCOMING REACTION' TO USSR POLICY CONFIRMATION

LD202222 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Lord Carrington, taking office as NATO's secretary general in July, said in an interview with THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR recently he was still convinced that the Russians should be dealt with from a position of strength. Now a commentary from Spartak Beglov, an observer of the Novosti Press Agency:

From what Lord Carrington declared it's clear that he is going to take into the future a policy of yesteryear, the policy that least of all meets the requirements of today. The funeral of Yuriy Andropov and the election of Konstantin Chernenko general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee make people reappraise what's taking place in world affairs and relations between states. There has been a largely welcoming reaction throughout the world to the authoritative confirmation of the fundamental principles of Soviet foreign policy; its continuity and consistency in reaching such priorities as the consolidation of the nation's security and the prevention of nuclear war.

These days many Western news media have been calling on leaders in the United States and other NATO countries not to lose the opportunities that have emerged for a change in attitude towards the Soviet Union and its allies. There have been calls for a new course to drop the position of strength policy since it already deadlocked East-West relations and world affairs as a whole. It also increased the risk of a nuclear war, undermined peaceful cooperation between countries with different social systems in many fields aimed to imperialist armed interference in Central America and the Middle East. The initiators of this policy meant, above all, to intimidate the Soviet Union and its allies and compel them to give up their principled positions and interests.

However, their plans failed completely. We are not to be intimidated, the Soviet Communist Party's general secretary, Konstantin Chernenko, firmly declared. Advocates of the policy of militarism and relentless arms drive and of interference in other people's internal affairs should abandon it and adopt a new policy of peace and cooperation. That's the choice that Moscow suggests; that's the only way that can lead humanity to a durable peace, disarmament and to the elimination of the threat of nuclear war.

Those who are calling for a step back are clearly out of step with the times.

CHERNENKO REMARKS ON TIES WITH PRC REITERATED

OW190051 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Mulatov commentary: "Consistently Strive To Improve Soviet-Chinese Relations"]

[Text] Dear listeners: Our country appreciates very much the respect and condolences shown by the Chinese Government for Comrade Andropov. Comrade Aliyev, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, expressed our appreciation at a meeting with Wan Li, vice premier of the Chinese State Council, who was heading a Chinese Government delegation to attend the funeral for Comrade Andropov. In exchanging views on questions of mutual concern, Comrade Aliyev emphatically pointed out that the Soviet leadership has consistently striven to improve relations between the two great neighboring countries of the Soviet Union and China. On this subject, please listen to the following commentary by our station observer Mulatov, entitled: Consistently Strive To Improve Soviet-Chinese Relations.

The recent plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee and the important speech at the session by Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the party Central Committee, have reiterated the continuity of the domestic and foreign policies of the CPSU and the Soviet state. Comrade Chernenko reaffirmed the Soviet foreign policy aimed at preventing a global war and at safeguarding and consolidating peace. He also stressed the special great importance of the collective contribution by the socialist countries' positive, definite, and concerted action under the current situation for consolidating the foundations of peace. Comrade Chernenko said: To achieve this purpose, we will strive to expand cooperation with all socialist countries.

Dear Chinese listeners: The CPSU and the Soviet state have attached great importance to the smooth development of Soviet-Chinese relations for the benefit of the peaceful development of our two neighboring countries, as well as to the mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and China and to our equal cooperation in actively solving the fundamental problems of the contemporary world. Because the interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples are identical, we also share a common interest in safeguarding and consolidating peace to ensure favorable external conditions for large-scale development in our two socialist countries. Soviet policy toward China, which was formulated by the 26th CPSU Congress and which has been developed and finalized by the resolutions of the subsequent plenary sessions of the CPSU Central Committee, is based precisely on this stand. The CPSU has steadfastly striven to improve Soviet-Chinese relations. The policy to reestablish lasting and stable goodneighborliness, mutual understanding, and cooperation in various fields in the relations between our two great countries is not political expediency, but a serious, principled, and consistent policy that is imbued with the rich experience and tradition of Soviet-Chinese friendship.

I positively believe that the Chinese people, like the Soviet people, still remember our unity in the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle, demonstrated even before the founding of the PRC. I believe that it is also still remembered in your country that Soviet-Chinese friendship and cooperation played an important role in laying the socialist foundations of China and in enhancing its international position at the time of the imperialist political and economic blockade against the Chinese people.

In view of the current international tensions caused by the imperialists' unprecedented expansion of guided missiles and nuclear armaments, which has threatened the vital interests of the people of various countries, concerted action by the Soviet Union and China as two socialist powers will contribute a great deal to relaxing international tensions, preventing the threat of war, and improving the world's political climate. The improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations not only conforms with the interests of the people ofour two countries, but can also become an important factor for ensuring stability in the Far East, Asia, and the whole world.

General Secretary Chernenko of the CPSU Central Committee emphatically pointed out at the plenary session: As a great socialist country, the Soviet Union is completely aware of its responsibility toward the people of various countries in safeguarding and consolidating peace. We are willing to engage in peaceful and mutually beneficial cooperation with countries on all continents. We favor the peaceful solution of all international problems through serious, equal, and constructive talks. The Soviet Union will fully cooperate with all countries that are willing to assist, with concrete actions, in the relaxation of international tensions and the cultivation of an atmosphere of trust in the world.

Dear Chinese listeners: All the necessary objective conditions exist for our two countries to foster an atmosphere of trust and to cooperate with each other in the international arena for the purpose of consolidating peace. It is the hope of the people of our two great countries, as well as the hope of all peace-loving forces in the world, that the Soviet Union and China will engage in constructive political dialogue on the fundamental questions concerning the development of the world.

NAKASONE CONFIRMS PLANS FOR PACIFIC SEA LANES

LD180636 Moscow TASS in English 0624 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Tokyo February 18 TASS -- Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has officially called for a strategic "division of duties" between Tokyo and Washington in their provocative militarist preparations in the Pacific. Answering questions in the budget commission of the lower house of parliament, he emphasized that "Japan should play the role of the shield and the United States that of the spear" in the common military policy of the two countries. Seeking to scare the MPs with "a potential threat to the country's security", Nakasone declared that Japan's efforts to build up its Armed Forces are "clearly insufficient". He confirmed that Tokyo is going to expedite preparations for taking "control" over transport lanes lying within 1,000 nautical miles from Japanese shores and hinted unmistakably at the possible revision of the program of modernizing and beefing up the Japanese Armed Forces to give it a further and all-round boost.

Complementing its words with actual deeds, Tokyo plans to increase military spending by nearly 6.6 percent as early as 1984 fiscal year despite the official policy of "austerity". The bulk of the money will go to augment the Navy and the Airforce which are to carry out operations on Pacific lanes in cooperation with the U.S. 7th Fleet in "contingencies".

Japan's 'Militarist Course'

LD201718 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tokyo February 20 TASS -- Japan will support U.S. actions in blocading the international straits linking the Sea of Japan with the Pacific Ocean in an emergency. This was said today in parliament by head of the treaties department of Japan's Foreign Ministry Hisashi Owada in answering a question by a deputy from the opposition Socialist Party.

This statement by a ranking official indicates that despite the demands of broad public the Nakasone government persists in its militarist course to make Japan a U.S. "unsinkable aircraft carrier" in the Far East. Plans are afoot to station U.S. nuclear-capable aircraft on Japanese soil next year. The Japanese ports are increasingly relied upon by U.S. combat ships with nuclear weapons on board. And preparations are under way for joint combat operations at a distance of 1000 miles from the Japanese coast.

COMMAND BUNKER PART OF U.S. 'FREE HAND' IN JAPAN

LD171646 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS -- TASS commentator Aleksey Popov writes:

The Pentagon is making ready to wage nuclear war from Japanese territory as well. This is confirmed by the existence of a special bunker for the U.S. military command at the U.S. naval base Yokota near Tokyo. Information to this effect has been supplied to the Japanese parliament by Deputy Tetsuzo Fuwa. That four-storeyed underground lair is intended to hosse in case of a nuclear conflict the headquarters which will coordinate the operations of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East.

The establishment of that command centre shows that the United States intends to use the Japanese islands not only as a military base and a point of transit for warships and aircraft carrying nuclear weapons, but also as the site for the centralized coordination of its conventional and nuclear forces in that part of Asia.

Disregarding Japan's "three non-nuclear principles," proclaimed by the government earlier, the right-wing Japanese forces are trying to convince the public of the country that the dangerous actions of the U.S. Armed Forces, in particular, calls by U.S. warships with nuclear weapons on board at Japanese ports, all but add to Japan's security. These claims, however, clash with common sense. It is perfectly obvious that the presence of nuclear weapons on the Japanese islands does not at all enhance their security. Conversely, it makes Japanese territory a potential target for nuclear retaliation. And if Japan is used as a centre of the U.S. military command in the Far East under "emergency conditions," this danger, Japanese experts believe, will further grow.

Most of the Japanese, judging by public opinion polls, are growing ever more aware of the threat posed to their country by the dangerous plans of the Pentagon. They demand that the government prevent Japan from being turned into a nuclear staging area and sever its military and political alliance with Washington, but the Tokyo leaders deliberately turn the deaf ear to these demands. Giving the U.S. Army a free hand on the Japanese islands, they are thus jeopardizing the security of their country.

U.S. SEEKS 'STRATEGIC MILITARY BASE' ON IWO JIMA

LD201855 Moscow TASS in English 1836 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tokyo February 20 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Anichkin reports: Japanese authorities have denied former inhabitants of the island of Iwo Jima, where work is under way to build a strategic military base, the right to return to their native parts. A special commission drew the conclusion that volcanic activity is too high and soil unfit for cultivation on that small island located 1,200 kilometres south of the Japanese capital, the newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN said.

But in fact it is not the volcanoes and rocks of Iwo Jima that prevent the inhabitants of the island, which they had to abandon 40 years ago when it was the biggest citadel of the emperor's army on southern approaches to Japan, from returning there. Tokyo is afraid that the presence of civilian population on Iwo Jima will hinder the implementation of plans to turn that small piece of land into a strongpoint ensuring combat operations of U.S. and Japanese Armed Forces on sea lanes lying within 1,000 miles from Japanese shores.

Iwo Jima, which has a strategically important location on the crossroads of shipping lanes in the Pacific, has attracted special attention after the Japanese Government assumed the commitment before Washington to "ensure the defense" of these lanes.

Plans provide for building a major long-range radio communications centre to ensure operations by Japanese R-3C anti-submarine planes. The Japan Defense Agency has already been allowed in this connection to use the satellite Sakura-2A. The island already is site of the U.S. Air Force communications base Loran. It is also used for the Japanese Naval exercises.

TOKYO SHIMBUN said that the United States of late has stepped up pressure on Japan, demanding that the latter expedite the construction of military installations on Iwo Jima. It is these plans that have deprived hundreds of families of former inhabitants of Iwo Jima of the hope to return to the home parts.

DRA'S KARMAL CONDEMNS IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION

LD172017 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] As it has already been announced, among the numerous foreign delegations which attended the funeral of Yuriy Andropov in Moscow, there was a delegation from Afghanistan led by the general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the republic, Babrak Karmal. On 15 February, he met the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Konstantin Chernenko and had a friendly talk with him.

In an interview given to Radio Moscow, Babrak Karmal said the decisions of the special full-scale meeting of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party held on 13 February and the deeply scientific speech made by Konstantin Chernenko at this forum covering all the aspects of life demonstrated once again the firm will of the Soviet people to continue the great Leninist precepts [words indistinct].

Babrak Karmal also said the full-scale meeting of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party reaffirmed once again the major directions of the party's policy on the international scene and the Soviet people's devotion to the policy of strengthening peace and ensuring the advance and the security of the people on this planet. We know Comrade Chernenko very well, he said, as a foremost leader of the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet state, as the faithful associate of Comrade Brezhnev and Comrade Adnropov. His promotion to the post of general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party emphasizes the continuity of the Soviet Union's policy, Babrak Karmal said.

The Soviet Union, he went on to say, has always been an honest, reliable, and firm friend of the socialist countries. The Afghan leader singled out the statement by Konstantin Chernenko saying that at the bottom of the policy of the Soviet Communist Party, of the Soviet state, lies among other things solidarity with people who have thrown off themselves the burden of colonial dependence and have (?progressed) down the road of independent development and especially with the peoples who have to repulse the (?incursions) of the aggressive imperialist forces creating in one or another part of the world dangerous hotbeds of violence and conflagration.

Babrak Karmal declared further that the Soviet Union draws on these principles when it renders its disinterested help to revolutionary Afghanistan. The freedom-loving people of independent Afghanistan know from their own experience how important is Soviet assistance for them in the economic, cultural, and military fields. We are seeking to promote, he said friendly and fraternal relations with the Soviet Union and there is no such force in the world which could destroy the solid foundation of our friendship. Babrak Karmal went on to say that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan sees its chief aim in working to improve the conditions of life for the people in the country. The party regards as one of the principle aims of the national democratic revolution a radical land and water reform. Babrak Karmal said that much was being done in his country to democratize public life and relations within society. This process is making good headway, he said.

The Afghan leader pointed out that immediately after the victory of the 1978 revolution, Afghanistan became a target of attacks by the forces of imperialism and reaction.

The aggression against Afghanistan, he went on to say, is a link in a chain of reckless policies of the imperialist powers led by the American Administration. The cause of these attacks is the policy of radical changes inside the country and the policy of peace that Afghanistan is pursuing on the international scene. We are doing everything we can, Babrak Karmal said, to ensure peaceful conditions for the work of the Afghans. With the help of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, we would like to achieve reliable guarantees of our sovereignty. Babrak Karmal said further that Afghanistan is striving for peace and for the normalization of the situation in Southwest Asia. A firm foundation of that is laid in the proposals put forward by Afghanistan and in the experience of holding talks with Pakistan with the good offices of the United Nations secretary general. This experience shows that the only possible way for a solution of interstate problems is the holding of direct negotiations with neighboring countries, Pakistan and Iran. We are absolutely certain, Babrak Karmal said, that common sense will prevail over imperialist schemes.

The Afghan leader said further that his country follows all the fundamental principles of international law and the norms governing international relations. We are prepared to do all in our power in that field, Babrak Karmal declared.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties, we are sure that we will solve all our problems in the long run. With the support of the progressive forces of the world, Babrak Karmal concluded, the people of Afghanistan will be able to translate the goals of their national, democratic, antifeudal, and anti-imperialist revolution into reality.

WESTERN 'MYTHS' OF AFGHAN 'COUNTERREVOLUTION' HIT

LD191928 Moscow TASS in English 1623 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul, Feb 19, BAKHTAR -- The Voice of America and the BBC reported that the efforts to unify the Afghan counter-revolutionary groups which are at loggerheads with one another are allegedly being successfully completed. The said "committee" set up to negotiate unification has worked out a "Draft Constitution of Free Afghanistan". The "draft", is to be submitted to a mythical "Grand Council of Tribes", which will allegedly gather in Egypt or Saudi Arabia.

The West has more than once pompously reported about various "unions" and "alliances" of Afghan counterrevolution. But they all ceased their existence instantaneously. Thus, the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujaheddin, which incorporated seven counter-revolutionary groups, broke down the other day. According to the leading West German newspaper DIE WELT, its leader Abdul Rasul Saif was accused by his "associates" of using the unity's funds for private needs and purging the rivals in the struggle for power.

Commenting on the collapse of this "unity", the "leading force" of Afghan counterrevolution, the French newspaper LES ECHOS wrote: "Attempts to unite the separate movements seem today more difficult than ever before." THE NEW YORK TIMES noted that American and British intelligence men doubt the possibility of pooling the Afghan mutineers. So Voice of America and BBC reports regarding the coming "unification" of Afghan counter-revolution sound stragne, to put it mildly. But creating myths about the unity of Afghan counter-revolution is one of the tasks of psychological warfare against Afghanistan. Its sponsors want to present this gang of thugs wrangling over sharing of Western "aid" as a "political opposition" to the legitimate Afghan Government and thus to justify imperialism's intervention in the home affairs of independent and sovereign Afghanistan.

PRK ASSEMBLY SESSION HAILS SUCCESSES

PM201514 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[B. Vinogradov "International Commentary": "Confident March"]

[Text] Current reports from Kampuchea tell of the new successes that this country's people are achieving in restoring and developing the national economy and in improving the living standard. The PRK National Assembly session that has just ended summed up the preceding period and examined the draft state plan for 1984.

The deputies of the republic's supreme legislative organ noted that in the 5 years that have elapsed since the liberation from the Pol Pot regime the country has not only risen from the ruins but has also achieved impressive results in developing the national economy and national culture. Dozens of industrial enterprises are increasing their output according to plan, the energy base is being strengthened with the help of friends from the socialist countries, and the area of cultivated land is expanding year in and year out. In accordance with the decisions of the Fourth Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Congress agriculture will become the foundation of the economy within a set period, and other sectors will be developed on its basis.

The correctness of party policy on the agrarian question was reaffirmed at the Seventh KPRP Central Committee Plenum. The Kampuchean peasants, united in labor mutual aid groups, recognize the importance of the tasks facing them. Receiving material and technical aid from the state, they are, through their labor, actively promoting the steady growth of agricultural production and are playing a prominent role in building the new life in the countryside. Currently there are 1.36 million peasant families in the country united in more than 100,000 labor mutual aid groups. The local organs of people's power, elected on a universal suffrage basis, enjoy the population's complete support. The people's administrative committees are guided in their activity by the main task set up by the KPRP -- the task of further improving the people's living standard.

The PRK is playing an increasingly active role in the international arena, acting as an important factor for peace and stability in the troubled region that Southeast Asia still is. Young Kampuchea's successes give no peace to the forces of international reaction, which continue to give military and political support to the Khmer emigre gangs encamped on Thai territory that are carrying out armed provocations against the Kampuchean people. The PRK Government resolutely upholds the principles of good-neighborliness and of cooperation on an equal rights basis with all states. This was again stated at the latest conference of the foreign ministers of the three fraternal Indochinese countries in Vientiane. Calling for a constructive dialogue with their Asean group neighbors, Kampuchea, Vietnam, and Laos propose solving all existing problems by way of talks.

As has already been repeatedly stressed, the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries will continue to give the Kampuchean people all possible aid. This selfless support, Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the PRK National Assembly, noted at the session, is the guarantee of Kampuchea's stable progress along the road of building the foundations of a socialist society.

HENG SAMRIN STATEMENT LAUDS TIES WITH USSR

BK170745 Moscow in Cambodian to Kampuchea 1330 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Statement to station correspondent by KPRP Central Committee General Secretary Heng Samrin during his stay in Moscow to attend Andorpov's funeral -- date not given; recorded]

[Text] Kampuchean-Soviet relations have been excellent over the past 5 years, since the genocidal Pol Pot clique completely severed it. The Soviet Union actively contributed to the liberation of the Kampuchean nation and the Kampuchean people from the danger of genocide created by the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang; it recognized the PRK on 9 January 1979. Since then, the relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between our two peoples and countries have grown stronger and developed steadily.

Our Kampuchean people are building their fatherland on a Marxist-Leninist line, advancing step by step toward socialism. In their resurrection, the Kampuchean people have always received assistance and support from the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Laos special alliance and considerable, effective, and timely aid from the socialist community, particularly from the Soviet Union.

On this occasion, on behalf of the KPRP, the Government of the PRK, and the entire Kampuchean people, I would like to express our most profound gratitude to the Soviet party, government, and people.

In the political domain, Kampuchea has always enjoyed an active support of the Soviet Union. The PRK has always been supported in all international forums by its Soviet friends, working for the heightening of the PRK's prestige and international position in world arena. The whole party and people regard the Soviet Union as their firm bastion in national defense and reconstruction in its gradual advance through the period of transition toward socialism.

The relations between the KPRP and the CPSU and between our mass organizations have grown and developed most satisfactorily.

In the economic sector, multiform cooperation is being greatly enhanced. In the agricultural field, the Soviet Union has helped us to improve cropping, to increase quality of the crops, and to heighten agricultural technique and science in the form of close cooperation through the delivery of equipment, consignment of a number of cadres and personnel, and transfer of planting techniques and science in a move to restore and develop Kampuchea's agriculture.

In the industrial field, we have also received sincere assistance from the Soviet Union, such as aid in repairing some factories, building a number of power plants, and supplying raw materials and technicians to help strengthen and develop Kampuchea's industries weakened and devastated by the Pol Pot regime.

In the commercial field, goods exchanges have also improved.

In the cultural, educational, and social sectors, the Soviet Union has sponsored a number of projects and has helped repair and build hospitals in the capital and a number of provinces. It has repaired and reopened the college of technology and has given scholarships to our students, cadres, and personnel. Thus far, there are more than 2,000 Kampuchean students and trainees currently furthering their studies in the Soviet Union.

We highly appreciate these bonds of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation and firmly hope that in the future these bonds will continue to grow stronger and develop rapidly in the cause of bringing happiness and well-being to the Kampuchean and Soviet peoples and in the interst of regional and world peace.

CHERNENKO-TRUONG CHINH MEETING IN MOSCOW HAILED

OW190042 Moscow in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1400 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Grammatikov commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: As previously reported, in their meeting in Moscow on 15 February Comrade Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade Truong Chinh, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV Council of State, unanimously asserted their determination to consolidate and develop the friendship and cooperation between the CPSU and the CPV and between the Soviet and Vietnamese peoples on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationlaism. Our station commentary says: Soviet-Vietnamese friendship has a glorious history and broad prospects. The cooperation between our two countries and our two nations in the political, economic, and international fields has brought about wonderful results. The two countries' economic relations have assumed a new material content and an unprecedentedly large scope. Hundreds of projects in various sectors of Vietnam's national economy have been put into operation or are being built with Soviet assistance. This year, the Soviet working people in Vietnam have begun the implementation of a long-term plan for developing economic, scientific, and technological cooperation between the USSR and the SRV, in accordance with an agreement signed during the recent visit to Vietnam by a Soviet party and government delegation. Soviet experts are working together with the Vietnamese people everywhere in Vietnam, on construction sites and infactories, schools, and scientific organs. Many Vietnamese technical cadres who graduated or received technical training in the Soviet Union are now greatly contributing to building socialism in Vietnam. A large number of Vietnamese youths, including engineers, construction workers, scientific cadres, and skilled workers are now studying or attending refresher courses in dozens of Soviet cities. In their meeting, Comrades Chernenko and Truong Chinh asserted that the duty of the Soviet Union and Vietnam is to continue the struggle to consolidate the peace and security of all nations in the world. The two leaders stressed the importance of the struggle to consolidate the relations of good neighborliness and cooperation in Asia and to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace and stability. Our two countries will strictly coordinate and concentrate their efforts on the international arena. We will proceed from a common stance in the settlement of imperative problems in the present era, such as putting an end to the arms race, normalizing the situation in various hotbeds on this planet, and eliminating the danger of a nuclear disaster. The Soviet people highly evaluate the fact that the Vietnamese people have always sympathized with and fully supported the Soviet Union's peace initiatives and foreign policy. For its part, the Soviet Union fully endorses the SRV's foreign policy, aimed at making the Southeast Asian situation healthy. The Soviet Union welcomes the constructive proposals mentioned in the communique of the Vientiane meeting of the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea. These proposals have created a practical basis for resolving all disputes in the region through negotiations. According to the official communique, the meeting between Comrades Chernenko and Truong Chinh took place in an atmosphere of friendship, fraternity, and identity of views. Welcoming the outcome of this meeting, the Soviet people are convinced that it will correspond with the interests of the two countries and to the benefit of world peace and socialism.

KOHL'S BRUSSEL 'ASSERTIONS' ON MISSILES 'FALSE'

LD171645 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1520 GMT 17 Feb 84

["Contrary to the Facts" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Feb (TASS) -- TASS political observer Vladimir Aleksandrov writes:

The development of new U.S. missiles which has begun in several NATO countries, including the FRG, and the real threat of these countries being turned into a nuclear missile bridgehead for the Pentagon, have stepped up the anxiety of West Europeans who have no wish to become hostages of U.S. nuclear strategy. In a wish to reassure the public, a number of West European public figures are trying to portray this exceptionally dangerous step as some sort of "good deed" which allegedly brings peace and security to the peoples of Europe. The speech in Brussels by FRG Chancellor H. Kohl, who is in the Belgian capital on a visit, was in just such a vein.

"NATO's two-track decision taken in 1979, the chancellor aid, was aimed solely at securing freedom and peace on the basis of military balance." This assertion is based on two false premises. First, nobody has threatened the NATO countries nor are they doing so now; the fabrication about the "Soviet threat" is nothing but a run-of-the-mill pretext designed to justify the dangerous militaristic course of Washington and the NATO leadership. Second, the military balance between the two opposing military-political groupings is a fact recognized by many eminent figures in the West, and this equilibrium does not by any means need to be restored.

On the contrary, it is precisely the deployment in West Europe of qualitatively new U.S. missiles which are strategic in regard to the Soviet Union, which abruptly destroys this balance and creates in Europe a situation different in principle and far more dangerous. What is involved is seriously detrimental to the security of the peoples of the European Continent and the world as a whole, as well as a very considerable infringment of the sovereignty of those West European states which put their territory at the disposal of transatlantic missiles. For it is the American politicians who will have their finger on the button of these missiles, and who will scarcely ask the peoples and governments of the West European states whether or not to start a nuclear war from their territory.

Also, the statement made by the West German chancellor that the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles should not be regarded as "a strategy of confrontation with regard to the Soviet Union", is quite unconvincing. But how else can one interpret the deployment on the very doorstep of the USSR and its Warsaw Treaty allies of these missiles -- typical first strike weaponry? Because the arguments of certain Washington officials concerning a "limited" nuclear war, suicidal for West Europe, and their appeals for "a crusade" against the countries of socialism are still quite fresh in the memory. It is unlikely that hushing up these facts and attempts to present the new U.S. missiles as some kind of "keepers of the peace" are able to disperse the well-founded anxiety felt by the European public over this step by Washington and NATO which is so extremely dangerous for the world.

'Claims' of Soviet Threat

LD180510 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2002 GMT 17 Feb 84

[From "The World Today" program: video talk by political observer Igor Fesunenko against still of Chancellor Kohl in background]

[Text] The deployment of new American first-strike nuclear-missile weapons will be continued in the FRG.

This is the conclusion that is being drawn by the West German press from what FRG Chancellor Kohl had to say at a press conference in Brussels. Kohl was in the Belgian capital on a 1-day visit, during which he attempted to put pressure on the Martens government to give its consent as soon as possible for the installation of cruise missiles in Belgium.

At this press conference, the chancellor spoke about the Soviet threat and about the fact that NATO's two-track decision, which was adopted in 1979, only pursued -- he said -- the aim of ensuring freedom and peace on the basis of an equal military balance. These claims by Chancellor Kohl do not accord with reality. First, no one has ever threatened, or is threatening, the NATO countries. As for the argument about an imaginary Soviet threat, this is just a pretext that has been concocted by Washington and seized upon by NATO for the purpose of justifying the dangerous militarist course of the United States and NATO. It ought to be stated too that many prominent figures in the United States and in other Western countries, including military specialists, diplomats and state officials, have long since and repeatedly admitted that an equal military balance exists between the two opposing military groupings. Consequently, despite Chancellor Kohl's statements, there is no need for this balance to be reestablished.

USSR DECLARES TWO NORWEGIANS PERSONA NON GRATA

For Paris AFP and Stockholm radio coverage on the USSR declaring two Norwegian citizens persona non grata, including the reaction of the Norwegian Foreign Minister Svenn Stray, see the Nordic Affairs section of the 21 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

WESTERN PRESSURE FOR SPAIN TO JOIN NATO CITED

LD201752 Moscow TASS in Enlgish 1735 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Madrid February 20 TASS -- A mass anti-war march organized by the national anti-NATO committee, Communists and members of a number of progressive public organizations has taken place here under the slogans: "No to Spain's membership in NATO" and "Get the bases out of Spain". The more than 50,000 marchers walked from Madrid to the township of Torrejon de Ardoz, the site of a major U.S. Air Force base, and held a rally there, demanding a referendum on Spain's membership in NATO and the removal of American military bases from this country.

Using pro-NATO sentiments among part of military figures and politicians, some western allies of Spain are exerting pressure on the Spanish Government in an effort to convince it of the need to integrate this country into NATO. The United States, in particular, recently granted fresh credits to Spain to buy U.S. military equipment and armaments, specially pointing out in doing this that the granting of aid should testify to the advantages of Spain's membership in NATO. The local press also carried reports that Britain is prepared to make considerable concessions in the Gibraltar problem if Spain becomes a fully-fledged member of the North Atlantic bloc.

But attempts to get Spain into the aggressive military bloc have run into growing opposition from more and more sections of the Spanish public, demanding that the government hold a referendum on the issue.

U.S. SAYS ARMADA TO STAY OFF LEBANESE COAST

LD171931 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 17 Feb 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Igor Fesunenko]

[Text] In Washington, a spokesman for the Pentagon has told journalists that in the next 2 to 3 days the evacuation of Marines onto vessels of the U.S. 6th Fleet lying off the Lebanese coast will begin. The preparations for redeployment of this detachment of interventionists which had settled in Beirut are now in full swing. One of the commanding officers reports that the combat morale of the servicemen loyal to him is at its peak, but of course this is bravado, an attempt to put a good face on the matter, particularly since in spite of the redeployment onto vessels the Marines will remain a constituent part of the Multinational Force. It follows that at any moment they might be returned to Beirut. Further, at least 500 U.S. servicemen will remain as advisers in the Lebanese capital.

A spokesman of the U.S. Administration, who spoke of this, at the same time categorically excluded the possibility of the U.S. naval armada being withdrawn from the Lebanese coast. In this he referred to the fact that the presence of the vessels is necessary for guaranteeing the mission of the Multinational Forces. However, it is well known that the United States has many times used shipborne artillery for the barbarous shelling of Lebanese settlements and the positions of National-Patriotic Forces of the country.

U.S. USES NAVY, ISRAEL FOR LEBANON PRESSURE

LD171946 Moscow TASS in English 1850 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

The United States continues to obstruct a peaceful settlement to the situation in Lebanon. Taking no account of the real situation, the Washington leaders are still following the course of "power solutions" to the problems of Lebanon, grossly interering in the internal affairs of that sovereign state. From the very beginning of the Lebanon conflict, which arose as a result of the Israeli aggression, the U.S. policy has been and remains hostile to the interests of the Lebanese people, and at variance with the Arabs' desire for peace and cooperation. As a result of the "gunboat diplomacy" of the United States, the situation in Lebanon has been further aggravated.

Resorting to propaganda ploys around the so-called "re-deployment" of the U.S. Marines from Beirut to the U.S. naval vessels off the coast of Lebanon, official Washington is in no hurry to withdraw its Armed Forces which engage in systematic shelling and bombing of innocent people in mountain regions near the Lebanese capital.

Washington does not wish to hear anything about the need for an immediate withdrawal of its naval vessels from off the coast of Lebanon. This posture by the U.S. leaders is essentially at variance with proposals submitted by France to the UN Security Council. Speaking at a UN Security Council meeting, the permanent representative of France at the United Nations Luc de la Barre de Nanteuil described the situation in Lebanon as serious, stressing that of special concern is the fact that civilian population is being the victim of bombing and shelling. He stressed, among other things, the need for pulling U.S. naval vessels and the missile carriers are daily engaging in barbarous shelling of civilian targets in Lebanon.

Moreover, there are signs of the USA even intends to increase its fire power off the Lebanese coast. As the U.S. Secretary of the Navy John Lehman said recently, work has now been stepped up to de-mothball and recommission the "Iowa" battleship which the U.S. command wants to send to the coast of Lebanon.

At the same time, the United States is relying, as a means for pressuring the Arabs, on Israel's threat to resort once again to large-scale military operations against Lebanon and to preserve the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon for an indefinite period of time, if developments in that Arab country deviate from the U.S.-Israeli scenario. This open blackmail aims at preserving the shackling agreement with Tel Aviv, imposed on Lebanon in the conditions of a de facto Israeli occupation, as well as assuring continued U.S. military presence in Lebanon in any guise in order to be able to continue its anti-Arab policy in the region.

DETAILS OF U.S. NAVAL BOMBARDMENT 'TOP SECRET'

LD180952 Moscow TASS in English 0944 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Washington February 18 TASS -- The Pentagon has hammered the "top secret" stamp on data revealing the consequences of a massive shelling of Beirut suburbs by the naval artillery of the U.S. 6th Fleet several days ago.

THE WASHINGTON POST said that information concerning the bombardment was being painstakingly concealed not only from the press but also from many officials in the Pentagon itself. U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger claimed that bad weather made it impossible to assess the extent of the inflicted damage.

But the real reason why the data related to the shelling has been made secret is something else. American warships rained merciless fire not only on "military facilities" of the National Patriotic Forces of Lebanon, but also on peaceful residential districts and villages, causing numerous casualties among Lebanese civilians and wanton, widespread destruction. The UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL said that Pentagon spokesmen, who had requested anonymity, had conceded that the naval shelling had not hit anything that would be of military value.

REDEPLOYMENT OF MARINES 'TACTICAL' MOVE

LD181635 Moscow TASS in English 1609 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Washington February 18 TASS -- President Reagan has issued an instruction to commence the so-called "redeployment" of U.S. Marines from Beirut to ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet which are plying off the Lebanese shores.

The point at issue is but a tactical manoeuvre to which the Reagan administration was forced to take a recourse in an attempt to neutralize the opposition to the policy of expanding U.S. military presence in Lebanon, which is mounting in the United States. The essence of this aggressive policy has not, however, been changed. A large contingent of U.S. Marines remains on the Lebanese soil, and ships with amphibious troops will not be withdrawn from the Lebanese shores.

It is indicated here at the same time that it is the United States which had provoked the Lebanese Army to military actions against the National Patriotic Forces of Lebanon.

And when those operations suffered an obvious failure and an ever growing number of Lebanese servicemen declares about their refusal to take part in the fratricidal war, the Lebanese authorities can no longer disregard the increasing demands of the National Patriotic Forces to ensure the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic and to abrogate the shackling Lebanese-Israeli agreement imposed on it by the White House.

U.S. STILL INSISTING ON LEBANON-ISRAELI ACCORD

PM171214 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Konstantin Geyvandov "Political Observer's Opinion": "Agreement on Bondage and Betrayal"]

[Text] The failure of the U.S. Administration's latest attempt to find a satisfactory solution to the Lebanese crisis by escalating its armed intervention has confirmed how futile these hopes of Washington and its satellites are. These hopes are pinned on nothing less than the desire to impose U.S.-Israeli domination on Lebanon by thwarting all the efforts by the Lebanese to achieve national accord on the future constitutional arrangement of their state, the democratic transformations needed in the country, and its ties and place in the Arab world. Therefore it is no surprise that the Washington administration and the Tel Aviv Government have now placed the main emphasis on preserving the "peace agreement" with Israel imposed on Lebanon on 17 May last year, whose abrogation is believed by the Lebanese opposition to be the preliminary condition for the opening of national dialogue.

In this respect, the opposition leaders proceed from the premise that the agreement in question is nothing other than bondage for and a betrayal of Lebanon. If one looks at conditions and the time of its imposition on the Lebanese Government, it is not hard to see for onself that such an assessment on the part of its opponents its fair. Just begin with the fact that the Israeli-Lebanese agreement was the result of unprovoked aggression launched by Israel against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in the summer of 1982. Brzezinski, one of the main organizers of the Camp David process and a fierce opponent of the Arabs, now admits somewhat late in the day that "the Israelis carried out this invasion guided by the false premise that Israel could impose its will on the Lebanese Government and turn it into a satellite, and that the United States would bless such an initiative with its support."

Nevertheless, it was precisely to "bless this initiative with support" that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz set off for a long Near East trip in the spring of 1983, took a direct part in the elaboration of the 17 May agreement, and after an exchange of secret memorandums with the Israeli Government and the Lebanese authorities, finally blessed the agreement. Categorically rejecting Lebanese demands that this "peace agreement" be abrogated, an official spokesman of Mr Shultz's department now asserts that "it is aimed at achieving our set goal -- the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon." In the contest of such statements, which the U.S. Administration has been making incessantly since the first few days of Washington's armed intervention in Lebanon, one may be permitted to ask: Why should the Lebanese authorities have to reach agreement with the Israeli aggressors" on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon?" If it is a question of Tel Aviv's occupation forces, additional agreements would seem unnecessary here. There are authoritiative documents to that effect such as Resolutions 508 and 509 unanimously approved by the UN Security Council.

However, it is also the case that talks on the "withdrawal of all foreign forces" were needed as propaganda cover for the implementation of the far-reaching aims of the U.S.-Israeli "strategic allies." With regard to Lebanon, these aims have two interlinked -- external and internal -- aspects which, in Brzezinski's terminology, are combined by the "satellite" concept. Putting it briefly, the essence of the foreign policy aspect amounts to this. Having imposed a "peace agreement" with Israel on Lebanon, the U.S. Administration set itself the task of prising a second state after Egypt from the Arabs' ranks which was also supposed to take the path of betrayal and the conclusion of separate deals with the Israeli aggressors. According to Washington's schemes this, in turn, was to have advanced the "Near East settlement" by the Camp David process which had some to a halt immediately after As-Sadat's capitulation and, in particular, to have revived the notorious "Reagan initiative."

As for internal Lebanese affairs, the main point of the 17 May 1983 agreement was to create a pretext for the perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon, thereby virtually beginning the process of the country's dismemberment. The American and Israeli authors put together a document knowingly impracticable for a sovereign state by stringing together an endless chain of binding and humiliating conditions. However, the scheme was that the U.S. Administration could use the U.S. military presence in Beirut and off Lebanon's shores to make this agreement "acceptable" by means of the guns of the battle ship "New Jersey" and by shipborne aircraft and Marines. These barbarous actions aimed at crushing the Lebanese will to resist are being carried out in close coordination with Tel Aviv. Its aircraft are systematically bombing the positions of the Lebanese National-Patriotic Forces while the Israeli Government incessantly repeats that if the Lebanese authorities abrogate the agreement with Israel the latter will never leave south Lebanon.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, citing high-ranking State Department officials, now writes that "The Reagan administration has decided to restate its firm support for the Lebanese-Israeli 'peace agreement' even though it also acknowledges that this could hinder President A. al-Jumayyil's efforts to settle the political crisis in Lebanon." The U.S. naval armada is increasing its might off Lebanon's shores and the U.S. Armed Forces are remaining "in action" in Beirut. Even those Marines intended for redeployment on board ship will be ready to land at the first order. Washington and Tel Aviv are fanning the slander campaign against Syria with renewed force. "Matters have still not come to an end, "U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger asserts. The Lebanese tragedy, the Arabs' tragedy continues.

ARENS: ISRAEL INTENDS TO STAY IN S. LEBANON

LD201003 Moscow TASS in English 0916 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Washington February 20 TASS -- The Israeli Army intends to gain a firm foot in the captured southern part of Lebanon and is not going to withdraw from there. This was stated on Sunday in an interview to the ABC Television Company by Defence Minister of Israel Arens. He asserted that Israel did not even wish to discuss the proposals on the return of the occupied lands to the Arabs. The minister said that for him it is difficult to imagine the future of Lebanon in rose colours as a united independent state. Arens made rough attacks on Syria.

ISRAELI 'REPRESSION', FIGHTING CONTINUES

LD181359 Moscow TASS in English GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 18 TASS -- Israeli occupation troops are toughening repressions against the peaceful population in the south of Lebanon. According to reports reaching here, they conducted wholesale round-ups and house-to-house searches in the districts of Rashayya al-Wadi and Hasbayya, arresting more than 50 persons there on standard charges of "putting up resistance" to the military administration and supporting national patriotic forces. Outraged by the Israeli invaders'harshly arbitrary actions, the inhabitants of Rashayya al-Wadi and Hasbayya called a general strike, demanding an immediate end to terror and violence and the release of the Lebanese languishing in Israeli jails.

Israeli troops also went on rampage in the village of Ain Aata; breaking into peasants' homes, searching them, interrogating villagers, taunting and humiliating them, and opening sporadic fire in the streets.

But the flagrantly arbitrary rule of Israeli aggressors cannot break the will of Lebanese patriots. Guerrillas yesterday staged a daring attack on Israeli positions in the area of the city of Tyre, inflicting considerable manpower and materiel losses on the occupation troops there.

The situation in mountainous areas of Lebanon as well as in Beirut remains extremely tense. Armed clashes, involving artillery shoot-outs, resumed from early morning today east and south of the Lebanese capital between detachments of National Patriotic Forces and units of the Lebanese Army. Army units pulled back from a number of their positions in the area of Suq al Gharb. Exchanges of fire periodically flared up along the line separating Beirut into eastern and western sectors. Fighting was on also in some parts of the seaport. A number of people were killed and wounded.

It is pointed out in local political circles that the aggravation of the political situation in Lebanon has been caused by interventionist actions by the Pentagon and the Israeli military, which are rudely meddling in the home affairs of a sovereign state. It is primarily Washington and its "strategic ally", maintaining their aggressive policy in relation to Arab countries, that are responsible for the fanning of the flames of war on the much-suffering soil of Lebanon.

ISRAELI PLANES CONDUCT 'BANDIT RAID' IN LEBANON

LD191518 Moscow TASS in English 1437 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 19 TASS -- Israeli planes again bombed today populated localities of Lebanon. According to the local radio, Israeli aircraft bombed the area of the town of Naameh, which is close to the southern suburbs of Beirut, as well as the town of Bhamdoun and the villages of Falougha and Hammana, situated in the zone controlled by the Syrian contingent of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon. The bandit raid of Israel planes resulted in casualties among the civilian population. Many buildings were destroyed.

NEW ISRAELI AIR RAIDS ON LEBANON CONTINUE

LD201701 Moscow TASS in English 1522 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 20 TASS -- The Israeli military, closely coordinating its actions with the United States, has committed fresh acts of aggression in Lebanon.

Dozens of civilians in this country were killed in barbarous raids carried out by Israeli aircraft on Sunday. Many houses were destroyed in the bombing.

Simultaneously, the occupation command sent convoys of tanks, armoured cars and trucks with soldiers, ammunition and equipment to the regions of Ad-Dahour and As-Shuf. This is the largest redeployment operation conducted by Israeli troops since September last when they were moved to the Al Awwali River. Local political observers assess Tel Aviv's actions as expression of support for the Lebanese Government troops fighting against units of the National Patriotic Forces, as preparation for expanding the scope of aggression in Lebanon and as an attempt to frustrate the efforts at reaching a peaceful settlement of the crisis in this country and to compel the central authorities to preserve intact their agreement with Israel of May 17 last year.

The provocative forays by Israeli invaders are systematically backed by the United States. Ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet, concentrated off the Lebanese coast, were ordered to sail yesterday towards southern Lebanon. They cast anchors opposite to the regions where the Israeli troops had been sent.

The situation in the Lebanese capital and its suburbs remains [words indistinct]. Fierce clashes between the Lebanese Army and units of the National Patriotic Front continued along the entire line dividing the city into western and eastern sector, as well as in Suq al-Gharb and (Kharoub) District throughout the past twenty-four hours with the use of artillery, rockets, mortars, and small arms. There are losses in killed and wounded among the civilians as a result of the bombardment of west Beirut.

Lebanese patriots are dealing strikes at the invaders in the Israeli-occupied territories. They carried out two successful operations in the largest south Lebanese city of Sayda and around An-Nabatiya during the past twenty-four hours, killing and wounding several Israeli soldiers.

The occupation authorities do not stop repressions and punitive operations in the south of the country. In Sayda, they opened fire on passers-by, wounding several innocent people. In that part of the city, Israeli troops fired at fishing vessels to keep them from sailing out to sea. Work at the port has been completely paralyzed.

Nicosia February 20 TASS -- The United States is trying to turn the airfield of the Cyprus city of Larnaca into its transshipping base for transferring ammunition and equipment to Lebanon and to ships of the American 6th Fleet, according to the newspaper KHARAVGHI.

The newspaper writes, in particular, that a transport plane with a large batch of bombs, rockets, and shells for the American troops in Lebanon landed in Larnaca on February 15.

KHARAVGHI stresses the people of Cyprus are resolutely opposed to their territory being used as a supply base of the American interventionist forces engaged in dirty imperialist aggression against the Lebanese people.

ITALIAN TROOPS BEGIN TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON

LD201956 Moscow TASS in English 1932 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Rome February 20 TASS -- The adventuristic policy of the United States which knocked together the so-called "Multi-National Forces" in the Middle East together with its allies is suffering a complete fiasco. Italy started withdrawing its military contingent from Lebanon today.

The Italian news agency ANSA reports that soldiers were boarding ships in a great haste, without any official ceremonies.

Over 1,000 officers and men making up the Italian military contingent went on board two transport ships which set the course for Livorno. A unit of 100 men remains in the Lebanese capital. ANSA reports that they will be guarding the Italian Embassy in Beirut and other Italian institutions.

FRANCE ASKS SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS LEBANON

LD182152 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1225 GMT 18 Feb 84

[From the "International Review" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] At the request of France, the UN Security Council has started discussing the situation in Lebanon. Speaking at a session of the council, the French representative effectively acknowledged the failure of the mission of the so-called Multinational Forces and indicated the need for a complete withdrawal of those troops and also removal of U.S. warships from the shores of Lebanon. France advocated UN participation in the settlement of the conflict.

LEBANON SITUATION, CLASHES, PEACE PLAN DISCUSSED

LD191309 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 19 TASS -- Armed clashes between units of the National Patriotic Forces and the Lebanese Army continued throughout the past twenty-four hours in Beirut along the "Green Line" dividing the city into western and eastern sectors. Artillery duels between the warring factions were also held in the mountains to the east and south-east of the capital.

In southern Lebanon, patriots are continuing to deal strikes at the Israeli invaders. They fired on the positions of the invaders near the village of (Kfar-Kuk). An Israeli patrol was ambushed on the road between 'Abbasiyah and Tyre. The invaders, suffering casualties, were combing the area and making arrests among the local population. A general strike was held in south Lebanon yesterday in protest against the repressions. It spread to western Beirut, northern regions of the country and the Al-Biq'a Valley.

The action was prompted, among other causes, by the killing by the Israelis of religious figure R. Kharb, an active opponent of the occupation who was repeatedly arrested. M. Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, declared that a further activisation of the struggle against the Israeli invaders will be a response to the crime.

According to Beirut radio, the redeployment of servicemen from the Italian contingent of the Multi-National Force to ships was started today. A large part of the 1,400-strong contingent will return home, the radio broadcast points out.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel delivered a fresh threat against Lebanon. Israel, he said, "will never recognize" the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement of May 17, 1983. This fettering accord was imposed on Lebanon by the United States and is one of the chief obstacles in the way of normalizing the situation in that country.

Damascus February 19 TASS -- President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria stressed the need to implement the accords reached at the Geneva Conference on National Reconciliation in Lebanon. San'a' news agency quotes him as saying that this would correspond to the interests of Lebanon and its people.

New York February 19 TASS -- The newspaper NEW YORK TIMES, analyzing the Reagan administration's policy in Lebanon, specifically its main objectives, points out that it suffered nearly a complete failure. None other than the American troops, the newspaper writes, who embarked in a state of disappointment to their ships, whereas the territory controlled by the central government has narrowed to the size of the fence surrounding the presidential palace, and even that area cannot be regarded as safe. The army, concentrated along the line dividing religious groupings, disintegrated after two days of serious fighting.

PRESS AGENCIES CITED ON LEBANON PEACE PLAN

LD181309 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Paris February 18 TASS -- Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim has announced another plan for a settlement in Lebanon. Agence FRANCE PRESSE reported that it provides, in particular, for a ceasefire in that country, the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of May 17, 1983, the resumption of the Geneva Conference on National Reconciliation, the formation of a national unity government, the withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign troops from the country within three months, and the adoption of so-called "security measures" in southern Lebanon to protect Israel's northern border.

As is known, the Yitzhaq Shamir government is using the demand for "ensuring security" as a pretext for consolidating the occupation of southern Lebanon and furthering its expansionist plans.

The Lebanese press has said that the plan has been drawn up by Saudi Arabia. But the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY said in a statement published in Riyadh today that the Saudi Government has never advanced any specific plan of a settlement and is only directing its efforts to reconcile opposing sides in Lebanon.

According to the Lebanese press, President Amin al-Jumayyil of Lebanon has agreed to the adoption of this plan.

Damascus February 18 TASS -- In connection with the publication of the new plan, the Syrian news agency, SANA, has issued a statement coming from "an informed source". It said that the plan's ideas contradict what has been achieved at the Geneva conference on national reconciliation and in effect facilitate the implementation rather than the annulment of the agreement between Lebanon and Israel of May 17, 1983. The statement stressed that the plan's demand for a simultaneous withdrawal of Israel and Syria from Lebanon is rejected by all Arab patriotic forces.

The leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic has emphasized on more than one occasion that the Syrian contingent of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon is staying in that country under a mandate of the League of Arab states and with the consent of the Lebanese Government. Decisions of the U.N. Security Council provide for an unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory.

CORRECTION TO U.S. LEBANON PEACE INITIATIVES

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "U.S. Lebanon 'Peace Initiatives' Criticized," published in the 16 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page H 2, first paragraph, line three:

... Ships' guns and carrier-based aircraft from the [naval task force the Pentagon has concentrated close to Lebanon's] shore, are making combined... (rewording for clarity, substituting naval task force for deck aircraft)

IRAQ-IRAN COMBAT OPERATIONS REPORTED

LD171607 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad February 17 TASS -- Iranian large-calibre artillery shelled the Iraqi cities of al Basrah, Mandali, Al-Shihabi and Zurbatiyah on Thursday, says a communique circulated here by the high command of Iraq. There were killed and wounded among civilian population. A considerable material damage was inflicted upon civilian facilities. The communique points out that Iraqi helicopters retaliated with a strike at enemy positions in the southern and northern sectors of the front.

An Iraqi military spokesman has stated that today two Iranian fighter planes intruded into Iraq's air space and bombed the residential blocks of the town of 'Ali al-Gharbi in Maysan Province. More than thirty people were killed or injured.

Nicosia February 17 TASS -- Iranian troops during an attack captured Azadkhan and Koshte high grounds in the territory of Iraq, as well as Tang-i-Shangule mountain pass. An Iraqi brigade and an artillery batallion were destroyed during the fighting, more than a thousand Iraqi servicemen were killed or wounded, and one aircraft was shot down. This has been reported by the Iranian News Agency IRNA.

EGYPT'S OPEN DOOR POLICY CRITICALLY ANALYZED

PM161600 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Peresada dispatch: "Egyptian Kaleidoscope"]

[Text] Cairo, February -- Criticism of the Infitah Policy

A scientific seminar on Egypt's socioeconomic problems has been held at the National Planning Institute. Its participants were sharply critical of the Infitah or open door policy for private capital announced in the economy by former President As-Sadat.

In the years that this policy was pursued, the seminar noted, only trade and the services sphere received rapid development, whereas the growth rate in industry and agriculture was negligible. Uncontrolled imports led to an exaggerated trade and balance of payments deficit. Constant reliance on foreign sources of finance led to a 14-fold increase in the country's foreign debt. The flow of capital abroad through foreign and mixed banks has increased. The disproportion in the distribution of income have intensified as a result of which a few people have been getting rich quickly while the living standard of most of the population has been steadily declining.

As AL-AKHBAR reports, the seminar turned into an "open trial" of the "open door" policy.

Opening up the Desert

The Egyptian Government has decided to begin opening up 42,000 hectares of desert in the An-Nubariyah region in the northwest of the country. New canals and roads and 300 villages will be built there. The opening up this region first began after the commissioning of the Aswan Dam on the Nile which was built with the USSR's assistance. The attack on the desert will now continue.

BRIEFS

UZBEK SPORTSMEN IN IRAN -- An international basketball tournament is being held in Iran to mark the fifth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. A team from the Tashkent University is participating. [Excerpt] [Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 1315 GMT 15 Feb 84 GF]

REAGAN SUBMITS DRAFT BILL ON CENTRAL AMERICA

LD190024 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0920 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Report by correspondent M. Beglov]

[Text] Washington, 18 Feb (TASS) -- The Washington administration in undertaking desperate attempts to strengthen the reactionary regimes of Central America which are shaking from the blows of national-liberation movements, to bring back democratic tendencies in the region. This is pointed out in a draft bill submitted by the White House to the U.S. Congress concerning the so-called "initiative for Central America in the sphere of democracy, peace, and development." It has been worked out to implement the "recommendations" for U.S. policy in this region, put forward by the notorious "Kissinger commission" set up on on the initiative of President Reagan.

In the accompanying letter to Congress, the head of the White House directly points out that the substantial increase in military-economic "aid" to Central American countries - proposed in the draft bill, is directed toward "ensuring U.S. national interests." By intimidating the legislators with some kind of "threat to the security" of regimes friendly to Washington, the President is asking them for broader military support, especially for El Salvador. For this purpose, Reagan is asking for an additional $259 million in the present fiscal year alone, and for nearly the same amount in the next one. The Washington administration is preparing to allocate $20 million for strengthening the gendarme forces which the dictatorial regimes of Central America are using for bloody repressions against the population of their own countries.

The bill also envisages strengthening dollar support to governments the United States likes. It is towards this in particular that the special program of "reconstruction" for Central America, which will cost the U.S. taxpayers $8 billion in the next 5 years, is directed. These funds, judging by the President's letter, will also go towards "bolstering" pro-American political groupings in the states of the region.

Special sections of the bill are devoted to extending subversive activity in Central America using the notorious "Peace Corps" and U.S. Information Agency (USIA). The chief of the Washington administration is also proposing to create the so-called "Central American Development Organization," which, judging by the principles of its activity stated by Reagan, should become a tool of U.S. political and economic expansion in the region.

ORTEGA TALKS WITH CHERNENKO ON U.S. 'AGGRESSION'

LD172316 Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The leader of Nicaragua's Government of National Reconstruction, in a press interview, has spoken highly of the results of the talks he had in Moscow with the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, Konstantin Chernenko. Daniel Ortega was in the Soviet capital at the head of his country's delegation to attend the funeral of Yuriy Andropov.

Daniel Ortega told the newsmen that he and General Secretary Chernenko had discussed Central American problems and the aggression against Nicaragua. We, he said, noted that the United States is proceeding with military escalation in Central America, that the Nicaraguans are defending themselves with resolve and dealing crushing blows to the invaders.

He also spoke of the efforts being made in our country to achieve peace and give peaceful solutions to problems. As we expected, Daniel Ortega continued, General Secretary Chernenko showed a profound understanding of Central America's pressing problems. We got yet another proof that the Soviet Communist Party, government, and people are consistent in their solidarity with the Sandinist National Liberation Front, government and people of Nicaragua.

We recorded our support for the efforts that the Soviet Union is making on the international scene for the sake of peace and humanity's vital interests. These interests are endangered as never before by the aggressive policy of North American imperialism. Speaking on the situation in Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega said that the United States is sabotaging economic facilities and attacking bridges and fuel stores, mostly under the command of agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency. The Nicaraguan leader further said that the counterrevolutionary operations that the United States had carried out systematically and on a large scale, both throughout last year and this year, were meant to capture at least a small part of Nicaraguan territory. But all of them failed, he said, because the Nicaraguan people are well organized and determined to fight for their revolution.

The Nicaraguan leader accused the United States of stepping up its aggression in a bid to encircle his country. The United States, he said, has performed massive air raids against our economic and military facilities causing civilian deaths and damaging our economy and some of our military installations. Daniel Ortega put the damage from the terrorist actions of imperialism at more than $127 million. The Nicaraguan leader concluded by saying that despite the continued aggression the Nicaraguan people worked with exceptional enthusiasm. As a result of this and of government measures, production in Nicaragua has grown by 5.1 percent.

U.S. 'MILITARIST DESIGNS' FOR GRENADAN AIRPORT

PM171603 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 84 Second Edition p 3

[TASS political observer V. Goncharov article: "The Airport's Fate, The Country's Fate"]

[Text] Nicholas Braithwaite, chairman of Grenada's Provisional Council reported at a press conference in Washington that the U.S. Government has decided to complete construction of the Grenadan airport at Point Salines, allocating $15 million for this purpose. The statement by the head of the pro-U.S. puppet regime clarifies a lot of things.

We recall that the question of this airport was one of the main, if not the main, pretexts for the U.S. aggression. As the Italian magazine EUROPEO noted last July a few months before the start of the U.S. aggression, "The United States has a particular complex about the construction of the Point Salines Airport." It is now clear that the nature of this complex was that the Pentagon leader's palms were itching, so anxious were they to control the new Grenadian airfield.

But, of course, in the process of preparing its aggression, the White House posed the question of this airport in a totally different way. A massive slander campaign was waged alleging that the new Grenadian airfield was intended to be a "bridge for Soviet-Cuban expansion in the Caribbean" and represented a threat to the United States. U.S. propaganda assured, (and today Braithwaite is again reaffirming this fabrication), that the construction was being handled "only by Cuba and other communist countries," whereas in reality the British Firm Plessey and a number of organizations from the West European Common Market were also participating in its construction.

The aim of these accusations was repeatedly exposed by Morris Bishop, head of the Grenadian Government, who said: "If Washington is looking for a pretext to invade Grenada, let it look for something else. A new airport is as vital to our economy as a transcontinental railroad was for the United States in the last century." Indeed, the old Grenadian airfield could only take small planes, and the island was virtually cut off from the main international airlines, which hindered the development of tourism and the country's economy as a whole.

Then, despite all this, the U.S. President himself pitched into the anti-Grenada campaign. Once he even personally brandished satellite photos at journalists and alleged that the huts lining the runway that was being constructed were "military centers." At the time, Morris Bishop ironically retorted: "If Washington wanted to spy on these ordinary builders' huts, there was no need to resort to complex satellite equipment. Any tourist with an ordinary camera can freely go up to these huts and photograph them." However, as is well known, Washington sent to Grenada not tourists, but assault troops armed to the teeth who did not go about "peacefully snapping" with cameras, but killing Grenadian patriots.

It is indicative that even in the first few days after the U.S. Marines' landing on Grenada the U.S. press was quite openly writing that the Pentagon intended completing construction of the Point Salines Airport in order to use it as an American military base.

Now these plans, judging by Braithwaite's statement, are near to implementation.

All this shows once again that the militarist designs of the U.S. military department lie at the root of U.S. policy in the Caribbean, just as in the other regions declared by Washington to be "spheres of U.S. vital interests." And Grenada has become a victim of these designs.

SOVIET, CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET

PM210833 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Consultations Held"]

[Text] Soviet-Cuban consultations have been held at the USSR Foreign Ministry on certain topical international problems. Taking part were V.G. Komplektov, USSR deputy foreign minister, R. Alarcon, Cuban deputy foreign minister, and other officials.

SHALAYEV-LED TU DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CUBA

LD191050 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] A Soviet trades union delegation, led by Comrade Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU, has arrived in the Cuban capital. It will take part in the work of the 15th congress of the Central Trade Union Organization of Cuban Working People. The delegation was welcomed at Jose Marti International Airport by Roberto Veiga, candidate member of the Politburo of the Cuban CP Central Committeee and general secretary of the Central Trade Union Organization of Cuban Working People, and other officials.

MORE FUNERAL DELEGATIONS DEPART MOSCOW

PM171239 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Foreign Delegations' Departure"]

[Text] The following party and state delegations, which had come to attend Yu.V. Andropov's funeral, have departed Moscow:

from the SRV, headed by Truong Chinh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the SRV Council of State;

from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, headed by Souphanouvong, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Politburo and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic;

from the SRFY, headed by M. Spiljak, president of the SFRY State Presidency, and D. Markovic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidency.

The delegations were seen off by G.A. Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Polituburo; V.M. Chebrikov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo; K.V. Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; A.K. Antonov, I.I. Bodyul, and N.V. Martinov, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; O.B. Rakhmanin, first deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, and other officials.

The party and state delegation from the Republic of Cuba headed by F. Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, which had come to attend Yu.V. Andropov's funeral, departed Moscow 16 February.

The delegation was seen off by V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo; K.V. Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; G.Kh. Shakhnazarov, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; and other officials.

The PRC Government delegation headed by Wan Li, vice premier of the PRC State Council, has also departed Moscow.

The delegation was seen off by I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; L.F. Ilichev, USSR deputy foreign minister; and other officials.

The following delegations have departed Moscow:
from Argentina, headed by vice president V. Martinez;
Australia's treasurer P. Keating;
from Belgium, headed by Vice Prime Minister J. Gol;
from Botswana, headed by Minister of External Affairs A.M. Mogwe;

from Brazil, headed by J. Goncalves Passarinho, minister of welfare and social security;
from Indonesia, headed by Foreign Minister M. Kusumaatmaja;
from Iraq, headed by Vice President T.M. Ma'Ruf;
from the Republic of Ireland, headed by President P. Hillery;
from Italy, headed by President A. Pertini;
from Canada, headed by Prime Minister P.E. Trudeau;
Kenya's Minister of Foreign Affairs E. Mwangale;
from Morocco, headed by Crown Prince S. Mohamed;
from Nigeria, headed by T. Idiagbon, chief of staff of the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces;
Rwanda's Minister [of Superior Education and Scientific Research] A. Ntagerura;
from Tunisia, headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs B.C. es-Sebsi;
from Switzerland, headed by P. Aubert, chief of the department of foreign affairs;
Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs S. Abe;
the special envoy of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

The delegations were seen off by I.P. Kalin and P.Ya. Strautmanis, deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Z.N. Nuriyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; USSR Minister V.N. Polyakov; and L.F. Ilichev and N.S. Ryzhov, USSR deputy foreign ministers.

ARKHIPOV MEETS WITH SFRY PRESIDENT SPILJAK

PM161156 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

["Meeting Held" -- PRAVDA Headline]

[Text] Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, had a meeting on 14 February with Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY Presidency, and Dragoslav Markovic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium.

On behalf of the SFRY Presidency, the LCY Central Committee Presidium, and the Communists and working people of Yuguslavia Mika Spiljak and Dragoslav Markovic expressed profound condolences on the demise of Yuriy Andropov.

Ivan Arkhipov expressed his gratitude to the leadership and fraternal peoples of Yugoslavia for the respect shown to the memory of Yuriy Andropov.

During the conversation, which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere, questions of Soviet-Yugoslav relations were discussed and satisfaction was expressed with their development. Mutual interests was reaffirmed in further broadening and deepening all-round cooperation between the USSR and the SFRY, the CPSU and the LCY. There was also an exchange of views on certain urgent international problems.

Taking part in the conversation were Jon Srbovan, member of the federal executive council, and Milojko Drulovic, SFRY ambassador to the USSR.

MORE WORLD LEADERS' CONDOLENCES REPORTED

Philippines' Marcos

PM161518 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Text] To the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The Philippine people, my wife -- the first lady -- and I convey condolences to the Soviet Government and people in connection with the untimely death of Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Although Andropov's tenure as president was brief, it will be remembered for his firm and steady pursuit of a policy of peace among nations. Although the events occurring in the world were distinguished by a tendency toward neutralizing his efforts to limit nuclear weapons and strategic forces, this will in no way diminish his personal contribution and dedication to the ideas of detente, so that valuable resources could be better used for the needs of social and economic development not only in the Soviet Union but also in the Third World.

Now that the new leadership assumes the entire burden of guiding the great Soviet Union, we hope and pray that the efforts made by President Andropov with the aim of achieving friendly agreement and cooperation between states will yield their fruit in the immediate future, for the need to achieve peace today is more important than ever before in the history of mankind.

In this hour of the Soviet people's grave loss we convey once more our profound expression of sympathy and friendship and wish them further stability and progress.

Ferdinand E. Marcos, president of the Philippines

Saudi King Fahd

PM161526 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Text] To the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium:

We have learned of the death of President Yuriy Andropov. We send to you and your colleagues, leaders and deputies of the Supreme Soviet, and to the government and people of the USSR our sincere condolences together with our best wishes for the future.

Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Saud, king of Saudi Arabia

Jordan's King Husayn

PM161534 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Text] To the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium:

It was with great regret and deep sorrow that I received the news of the death of President Yu.V. Andropov, a leader with whom I had a relationship of friendship and respect.

We in Jordan will always remember what the late president did to further strengthen and develop Jordanian-Soviet relations in various spheres in the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples.

The Arab nation will always value the invariable Soviet position of support for the Arabs' cause, especially in relation to the Palestinian problem and the right of the Arab people of Palestine to return to their home and to self-determination on their own national territory.

On behalf of the people and government of Jordan and on my own account I express sincere condolences and profound sympathy to the Soviet leadership, to the family of the deceased and to the people of the friendly Soviet Union.

Husayn ibn Talal.

Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi

PM161521 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee:

It was with profound sadness and sorrow that we learned of the death of Mr Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium an outstanding fighter for peace and international security.

It is with a feeling of deep sadness that I express to you and to the friendly Soviet people sincere condolences from me and from the people of the socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the hope that the friendly Soviet Union will bear it s great grief with dignity.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Gadhdhafi

Italian Prime Minister Craxi

PM161627 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Text] To His Excellency Nikolay Aleksandrovich Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

On behalf of the Italian Government and on my own behalf I express profound condolences at the death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, after his prolonged illness. This has happened at a time of particular difficulty in the international situation which requires the maximum effort from all in the search for mutual understanding with the aim of the speediest renewal of realistic and effective dialogue on questions of peace and cooperation.

In confirming that Italy is guided in its actions by precisely these aims, I express feelings of friendship toward the Soviet Government and the Soviet people as well as profound condolences.

Bettino Craxi

COMPARISON OF CHERNENKO MEETING WITH TSEDENBAL

Moscow PRAVDA on 18 February in its First Edition front pages a report on the meeting between Konstantin Chernenko and Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, general secretary of Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic. This PRAVDA version under the headline "Conversation Between K.U. Chernenko and Yu. Tsedenbal", has been compared with the TASS English version published on page P1 of the 17 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, revealing the following variation:

Paragraph one, line two reads in PRAVDA:...had a meeting 17 February with the General... (supplying date)

CHERNENKO SIGNS MILITARY LEADER'S OBITUARY

PM181652 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb. 84 Morning Edition p 3

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers have announced with deep sorrow that Marshal Pavel Batitskiy, a prominent Soviet military leader, died on Friday following a grave illness.

Pavel Batitskiy was born to a worker's family in Kharkov in 1910. He started his working life at an early age. He enlisted in the Army in his youth and served in the ranks of the Soviet Army for more than 50 years. Pavel Batitskiy was an active participant in the Great Patriotic War (1941-45).

Marshal Batitskiy made a big contribution to raising the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces and to developing and perfecting the country's anti-aircraft forces.

K.U. Chernenko, M.S. Gorbachev, G.V. Romanov, N.A. Tikhonov, D.F. Ustinov, V.V. Kuznetsov, N.V. Ogarkov, V.G. Kulikov, S.L. Sokolov, A.A. Yepishev, N.I. Savinkin, V.F. Tolubko, V.I. Petrov, A.I. Koldunov, P.S. Kutakhov, S.G. Gorshkov, S.K. Kurkotkin, V.M. Shabanov, N.F. Shestopalov, A.T. Altunin, I.N. Shkadov, S.F. Akhromeyev, K.S. Moskalenko, I.G. Pavlovskiy, A.I. Sorokin, M.G. Sobolev, S.I. Rudenko, A.P. Silantyev, V.P. Utkin, A.M. Zvartsev, S.A. Boylev, Ye. S. Yurasov, G.P. Skorikov, S.P. Romanov, V.V. Bochkov, A.G. Smirnov, N.D. Grebennikov, Yu. T. Chesnokov, N.I. Moskvitelev, A.I. Khyupenen, Yu. V. Votintsev, A.U. Kostantinov, V.A. Ponomarev, P.I. Batov, A.P. Beloborodov, Yu. A. Gorkov, V.P. Vinogradov.

VARIOUS SOVIET BODIES CONGRATULATE CHERNENKO

LD191517 Moscow TASS in English 1504 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS -- In connection with his election to the post of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Konstantin Chernenko has received numerous telegrams and letters with heartfelt congratulations from Central Committees of communist parties, presidiums of the Supreme Soviets, Councils of Ministers of union republics, regional and district CPSU Committees, other party and local government bodies, trade union and Young Communist League organizations, public organizations, party veterans, numerous labour collectives, scientific and cultural workers, servicemen of the Soviet Army and the Navy, as well as from separate citizens of the USSR, who wish him impressive accomplishments in his activities at the post of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Konstantin Chernenko also received telegrams of congratulation with wishes of success from leaders of communist and workers' parties, heads of state and government.

WORLD COMMUNIST FIGURES CONGRATULATE CHERNENKO

LD191523 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The leaders of communist and workers parties, heads of state and government have congratulated Konstantin Chernenko on his election to the post of general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee. Telegrams addressed to Konstantin Chernenko contain wishes of success in his activity.

In his message, the GDR leader Erich Honecker underlined the role of the Soviet Union in the struggle for peace against the danger of nuclear disaster coming from imperialism. President Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia says his country is determined to develop relations with the Soviet Union in the interests of the unity and cohesion of the socialist community. The telegram from the Vietnamese Party Leader Le Duan notes that the people of Vietnam and their Communist Party know Konstantin Chernenko as an outstanding party and government figure, and they believe that Chernenko's work on the higher post will promote closer unity between revolutionary and peaceful forces the world over. In his message of greeting to Konstantin Chernenko the Cuban leader Fidel Castro has expressed confidence that the Soviet Union will fulfill with honor its duty in preserving peace and eliminating the threat of war that the Reagan administration is trying to unleash.

COMMUNIST PARTIES, LEADERS CONGRATULATE CHERNENKO

LD202151 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] In connection with the election of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko as CPSU Central Committee general secretary, many telegrams and letters with cordial congratulations continue to arrive for him.

Congratulatory telegrams have been sent by Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party; Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party; Berlinguer, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party; Papaioannou, AKEL [Restorative Party of the Working People of Cyprus] secretary general; Schmitt, chairman of the West Berlin Socialist Unity Party; Hagel, chairman of the Swedish Communist Workers Association; Jensen, chairman of the Danish Communist Party; Hawi, secretary-general of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee; Corvalan, secretary-general of the Chile Communist Party; Fava, secretary general of the Uruguayan Communist Party Central Committee; Faria, Venezuelan Communist Party secretary general; Jorge de Prado, secretary general of the Peruvian Communist Party Central Committee; Theodore, secretary general of the PUCH [Parti Uni des Communists Haitiens] Central Committee; Carbonell, secretary general of the Costa Rica Popular Vanguard Central Committee; Kutlu, secretary general of the Turkish Communist Party Central Committee; Handal, secretary general of the Salvador Communist Party Central Committee; Padilla, leader of the Honduran Communist Party Central Committee; Jagan, secretary general of the Guyana People's Progressive Party.

Congratulations telegrams have arrived from the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of Greece, Finland, Bangladesh, Israel, Syria; from the Central Committees of the Guatemalan Labour Party, the Australian Socialist Party, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the People's Party of Iran.

MORE WORLD CONGRATULATIONS TO CHERNENKO REPORTED

CPCZ's Husak

LD200028 Moscow in Czech and Slovak to Czechoslovakia 1600 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Gustav Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, has sent a telegram of congratulations to Konstantin Chernenko on his election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The telegram says:

On behalf of the CPCZ Central Committee and personally, I most sincerely congratulate you on having been elected to the office of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Czechoslovak Communists and all Czechoslovak people know you as an important representative of the CPSU and the Soviet state, who in all the high offices the party has entrusted him, and through his multifacted lifelong activity has demonstrated his loyalty and devotion to the victorious Leninist ideas of Great October, the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist and proletarian internationalism, and to the interests of peace and social progress in the world.

We highly praise the fact that our fraternal communist parties, socialist states, and the nations of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union are bound with firm ties of friendship, comprehensive cooperation, and alliance. Their fruitful development is closely connected with your activity as a true and sincere friend of Czechoslovakia.

On this occasion, do accept assurances that we shall continue to make every effort to ensure that the fraternal Czechoslovak-Soviet relations continue to strengthen and deepen in the interest and to the benefit of our nations and the unity and cohesion of the states of the socialist community.

We sincerely wish the heroic Soviet people to achieve, under the leadership of its Leninist party, new victories in realizing the general line laid down by the 26th CPSU Congress in building and improving advanced socialist society, and in the struggle for averting the nuclear (war) threat and achieving permanent peace and (international) detente. We assure you that Czechoslovak Communists and all Czechoslovak people will continue to follow in firm unity the path alongside the CPSU and the Soviet Union in the struggle for socialism, peace, and progress.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish you good health, creative strength and many successes in your responsible work in developing and multiplying the strength of the Soviet Union, the well-being of the Soviet people, and peace for all nations, says the telegram of congratulations sent by General Secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee Gustav Husak to Konstantin Chernenko on his election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

DPRK Minister Song-san

PM210848 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade N.A. Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

Expressing thanks for the congratulations on my election as prime minister of the DPRK Administration Council, I wish you great successes in work.

Kang Song-san, prime minister of the DPRK Administration Council

Upper Volta's Sankara

AB162125 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade President Thomas Sankara has sent a message to Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPCU. It reads:

Comrade, on the happy occasion of your election to the post of general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, I have the honor to express to you, on behalf of the revolutionary people of Upper Volta, their National Council of the Revolution [CNR], their government, and on my own behalf, our very warm congratulations. Your election comes at a time when the exploitive forces are being opposed by the oppressed masses, and I have no doubt that with your militant commitment, the CPSU will identify itself more with the struggling peoples in order to block the way of imperialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, and [words indistinct]. Only our solidarity and our full determination will lead us to our inevitable victory.

Highest and militant regards,

[Signed] Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR, head of state of Upper Volta.

Senegal's Biya

AB161510 Dakar PANA in French 1152 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Yaounde, 16 Feb (CAMNEWS/PANA) -- The Cameroonian head of state, Paul Biya, sent a congratulatory message to Konstantin Chernenko shortly after his nomination to the post of secretary general of the CPSU. Here is the full text of the message:

At a time when you have been assigned the high functions of secretary general of the CPSU, it is with pleasure that I address to you on behalf of the Cameroonian people, their government, the Cameroon National Union Party, and on my own behalf, sincere and warm congratulations. I am convinced that your election will contribute significantly toward the development and diversification of the excellent relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation that have existed between our two countries for a long time now.

While wishing you full success in your high mission, accept, Mr Secretary General, the renewed assurance of my highest esteem.

TIKHONOV BOOK ON SOVIET ECONOMY PUBLISHED

LD171838 Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS -- The Novosti Press Agency Publishing House has put out a book entitled "The Soviet Economy: Achievements, Problems and Prospects" by Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

The book treats of the main stages of the development of the economy of the USSR, of its present state and the near future.

Many problems are examined by the author in a broad international context and are closely linked with the country's foreign policy and inter-state relations.

The book which is offered to the readers is yet another authoritative illustration that the Soviet people under the leadership of the CPSU have focused all energies on two inter-connected directions. One of them is to create a comprehensively developed society and the other one is to strengthen peace.

SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY COURSE 'CONTINUITY' REVIEWED

PM210834 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Consistent, Principled Policy"]

[Text] The situation now taking shape in the international arena is complex and tense. U.S. ultrareactionary imperialist forces are seeking to put the brakes on social progress. They have mounted an unrestrained arms race and elevated state terrorism to the level of official policy and are trying to dictate their will to sovereign states by force of arms. We are witnessing an overt attempt by the ruling circles of the United States and its NATO allies to change the military equilibrium in Europe and on a global scale in their favor.

Under these conditions, as the CPSU Central Committee appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR emphasizes, "the party and the Soviet state are doing everything possible to ensure peaceful living and working conditions for the Soviet people and to preserve and strengthen world peace and the peoples' security."

The foreign policy course of the Communist Party and the Soviet state aimed at strengthening international security and developing mutually advantageous cooperation among states on the principles of peaceful coexistence and solidarity with peoples who have to repulse attacks by imperialism's aggressive forces is not determined by the demands of the moment or by considerations of expediency. It is a consistent, principled course, which the Soviet Union has followed unswervingly at all the sharp turns of history. it is a Leninist policy of peace, whose chief features at the modern stage are defined by the decisions of recent CPSU congresses.

The continuing of the USSR's Leninist foreign policy received convincing new confirmation at the extraordinary plenum of the party's Central Committee held 13 February 1984 and in the Soviet leaders' speeches at the funeral meeting in Red Square.

It has been very forcefully emphasized during these days that in the present complex and dangerously exacerbated international situation the Communist Party and the Soviet state consider it their paramount duty to consistently uphold the cause of peace, to display self-control and vigilance, resolutely thwart imperialism's adventurist designs, and strengthen the country's defense might. "We clearly see the threat to mankind posed by the reckless, adventurist actions of imperialism's aggressive forces today, and we speak about this at the top of our voice, drawing the attention of the peoples of the whole world to this danger," Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, pointed out in his plenum speech. "We do not need military superiority and do not intend to dictate our will to others, but we will not allow the military equilibrium achieved to be upset. And let no one entertain the slightest doubt. We will continue to see to it that our country's defense capability is strengthened and that we have adequate means with which to cool the hot heads of militant adventurers."

As a great socialist power, the Soviet Union is fully aware of its responsibility to the peoples for preserving and strengthening peace. Taking enforced measures to strengthen its security and the security of its allies -- necessary measures -- the Soviet Union and its leadership are not relaxing and will not relax their efforts to divert the threat of war from mankind and improve the international situation. The USSR advocates the peaceful resolution of all disputed international problems by means of earnest, equitable, constructive talks. At the same time the Soviet Union has advanced a series of major intiatives of principled significance.

The essence of the Soviet foreign policy initiatives consists in strengthening the peoples' security. To this end the USSR advocates reaching agreement on large-scale confidence-building measures. This would be greatly assisted by a pledge by all nuclear powers not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and by an international accord not to use armed force in general.

The Soviet Union is not alone in the struggle for international security and to improve the atmosphere in the world arena. Its policy is approved and supported by the peoples of the socialist states and by the progressive forces of all the world's countries. This support is of tremendous significance. Success in preserving and strengthening peace depends to a considerable degree on the activeness, purposefulness, and coordinate action of the socialist states in the world arena. Developing and strengthening in every possible way cohesion with the socialist community countries and cooperation with them in all spheres, the Soviet Union assures them that they will continue to have it as a reliable friend and loyal ally.

Solidarity with the peoples who have cast off the yoke of colonial dependence and embarked on the path of independent development still remains one of the foundations of Soviet foreign policy. The Soviet Union is on the side of the righteous cause of the peoples who advocate the removal of the hotbeds of bloody violence and military conflagrations being created in various parts of the world by imperialism's ultrareactionary forces.

In today's acute situation, too, the CPSU and the Soviet state will not go back on the peace program adopted at the party congresses. The Soviet Union will not encroach upon the security of any country -- either in the West or in the East. The Soviet people are responding to imperialism's intrigues by rallying still more closely around the Leninist party of Communists. Soviet people are displaying high political awareness and vigilance and are working with full exertion of effort to strengthen the homeland's economic and defense might.

The USSR Armed Forces led by the Communist Party reliably stand guard over our socialist motherland and the Soviet people's peaceful creative labor. Wholly approving and warmly supporting our party's Leninist policy, Soviet servicemen are indefatigably improving their combat skill, persistently mastering formidable weapons and modern hardware, and worthily fulfilling their sacred duty to the motherland. The CPSU Central Committee's election appeal resounds in their hearts and in the hearts of all Soviet people:

In voting for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people you, comrades will be voting for the Leninist foreign policy, whose immutable aims are to ensure lasting peace and universal security, to broaden and deepen cooperation among states, and to defend the peoples' right to independence and social progress.

KOMMUNIST CHIEF EDITOR ON SOCIALIST WAY OF LIFE

PM151558 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Interview with R.I. Kosolapov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief editor of KOMMUNIST, by Yuriy Zarechkin, chief of the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA sociopolitical life section, under the rubric "Topical Interview": "By Strength of Reason and Feeling...'" -- date and place not given]

[Text] Question: One month ago, the year which in our calendar was known as "Karl Marx Year" came to an end. Mankind celebrated the 165th anniversary of the birth and the centenary of the death of the Prometheus of revolution.

A year of commemoration -- and a year of stocktaking...We have not merely been honoring a great man. We can see the role which Marxism has played in the development of society and in the establishment of socialism as a social system. It is time to speak out loud about the real force of Marx' teaching.

It is well known that Lenin remarked that Marxism is cast from one piece of steel, as it were: It brings together in a single whole the objective cognition of reality and the conscious expression of the interests of the working class -- the vanguard of the liberation movement...

Answer: Yes, Marx Year is behind us. It was a very full year in the ideological and political respect. You only have to recall the publication in February of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's article "Karl Marx' Teaching and Certain Questions of Socialist Building in the USSR" and the two CPSU Central Committee Plenums in June and December which determined the current spiritual atmosphere in the country.

The 100 years which have elapsed since the death of the father of scientific communism can, quite justifiably, be described as Marx' Century -- the century of the increasingly effective influence exerted on the peoples' destinies by his teaching, which was creatively continued in Leninism. We have now entered the second century of this kind...

You have, very appropriately, recalled one of the most expressive and vivid of Lenin's descriptions of Marxism which, I admit, is especially dear to me, personally. Marxism is cast from one piece of steel, as it were, not only because it brings together into a single whole the objective knowledge of the world and the conscious expression of the interests of the working class and all the working people, but also because it represents a unified system of revolutionary views.

Marxism is not a collection of information mechanically gathered from various spheres of human activity; it is not a herbarium of dried dogmas, nor a collection of recipes that have grown yellow with age, but a dynamic world-outlook organism which actively assimilates the human intellect's best achievements and resolutely discards everything that is alien to, and incompatible with, its theory and method, with its lofty mission in the liberation movement. It is the implacable enemy of any kind of eclectism, half-measures, and vagueness and demands that a firm class approach -- that very methodological discipline of thought which was discussed at the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum -- is strictly applied everywhere and in everything.

I consider it pertinent to mention this because there are authors even now who eithe unwittingly allow mutually exclusive assertions to feature in their works or -- on the pretext of alleged objectivity -- equate the truth and a doubtful conclusion.

But is it possible to speak of objectivity when an opinion which distorts reality is considered essentially just as valid and permissible as an opinion which corresponds to reality? And how can one trust an expert who does not understand whether he is putting into the hands of a man thirsting for knowledge the food of truth or the stone of prejudice? And who, moreover, presents it as a good deed on his part? Marxism has always regarded truth as the highest value and, extending this attitude to the moral sphere, has always firmly insisted on absolute honesty. Honesty with regard to science, people, and history.

In its analysis, Marxism displays the utmost accuracy and clockwork precision. It is merciless with regard to any kind of falsehood and illogicality and is invariably consistent in its conclusions. For this reason attempts to take out of use certain Marxist theses not because they are outdated but on the shaky ground that they "irritate" certain people, can only evoke puzzlement. There are plenty of things that irritate people! Truth has never been considered something particularly palatable and quite often people have found it hard to swallow. But such feelings cannot serve as an argument in a serious discussion...

Question: The proposition "Marxism is not a dogma but a guideline for action" has become a classic one. I hope you will not accuse me of oversimplification when I say that it was largely thanks to this "working formula" that the advocates of the new revolutionary teaching ensured the emergence of socialism and its "viability" to use Marx' term.

Who would dispute that the most complex, tremendously difficult task for any revolutionary is the "translation" of his theory and own convictions and aspirations into practice. As is known, prior to the Bolsheviks, nobody had succeeded in this. With the victory of October and the establishment of the socialist system -- the first consciously controlled social system -- theory and practice were brought noticeably closer together. And these words of Lenin's retain their full validity to this day: "The purpose of our theoretical views is to guide us in our revolutionary activity. The best place to test our theoretical views is the battlefield."

Unfortunately, recent history also knows examples of the underrating of Marxism as a guideline for action or its transformation into nothing but an object of ritual glorification being the causes of serious political miscalculations on the part of certain fraternal parties. Similar results have sometimes been produced by attempts to rest content with Marxism as expounded in popular textbooks or to apply only individual Marxist propositions. It is in these circumstances, according to Lenin, that we make Marxism one-sided, deformed, and dead, that we remove its soul, undermine its basic theoretical foundations -- dialectics, the teaching of comprehensive historical development which is full of contradictions -- and, most importantly, undermine its link with the epoch's practical tasks, which can change with every new turn of history. And it is for this reason that all-around Marxist education remains an immutable necessity for any practical expert.

Question: The contradictions of historical development under socialism are, it must be noted, of a special nature. In Lenin's view, like most other shortcomings in general, they are inevitable during the first stage of the communist society "which has only just emerged into this world from the womb of capitalism." From this viewpoint what do the dialects of development at the stage of mature socialism look like in your opinion?

Answer: Here I must disagree with you. You class contradictions as "shortcomings." But Marxism-Leninism teaches that development is unthinkable without contradictions: They are inevitable and will play a positively creative role not only in the first but also in the second phase of communism. The question lies elsewhere -- in which particular contradictions do you have in mind?

To all appearances you have touched upon only one type of contradiction under socialism -- the contradictions concerned with the fact that the new society is born of the old society. These are contradictions between the socialist way of life and burgeoning communism on the one hand and the "birthmarks" of capitalism and the "scars" of bourgeois and petty bourgeois mentality on the other hand. And these contradictions can be directly linked with shortcomings, for instance in the firm establishment of the principles of collectivism and the development of socialist social relations...

But there are also other contradictions which can be described as the contradictions of socialism proper. These are primarily contradictions between the old and the new, engendered by the development of the new social system's own nature, contradictions between the growth of consciousness and spontaneous tendencies in society's life. It is not difficult to guess that this type of contradiction has so far been studied far less than the first type, and there is much food for thought here not only for our social scientists but also for our writers.

However, are there any contradictions which can be classed directly as shortcomings? I believe there are. But there are always contradictions caused by subjective blunders and mistakes which lead to the poor utilization of socialism's rich potential and to material and moral losses.

On the other hand, in my opinion, not all of socialism's contradictions can be regarded as shortcomings. Is it not utopian to believe that society could be totally free from conflict and problems? It is much simpler to discredit socialism by accusing it of failing to create the conditions for a heavenly, idylic existence. As for the Marxists, they have never shrunk from contradictions, have assessed them soberly and have struggled to resolve them promptly. They have regarded sidestepping social development difficulties and hiding behind face-saving phrases designed to justify passiveness in struggle as impermissible. Furthermore, Lenin claimed that "the Marxists' work is always 'difficult' and that they differ from the liberals precisely in that they do not declare what is difficult to be impossible."

You were right to note that the contradictions of historical development under socialism are of a special nature. When they are approached with scientific awareness it becomes obvious that they lack the traits of social antagonism. After all, there are no longer any opposing classes and society consists only of working people, and is confidently advancing toward complex sociopolitical and ideological unity.

Question: Does that mean that the conflicts in it have been eradicated and that the causes of clashes of interests and opinions have disappeared?

Answer: Certainly not. And if we have already touched on those contradictions because they arise from socialism's own highly mobile base, it is because they are to be explained, in my view, by the need to replace obsolete, decrepit social forms by potentially more powerful, dynamic forms assisting our progress.

You may say that these old forms have nevertheless been generated by the new system and that we must treat them carefully. And I am prepared to agree that this view is correct insofar as it guards against a lack of historical discrimination, hasty actions, ill-considered abolitions and reorganizations, and intuitive rather than scientific ddcisions.

That represents the truth, but not yet the whole truth. We are not justified in failing to heed attentively what Blok called the music of the world's orchestra or in failing to be realists and dialecticians. It is hardly permissible to forget that our system has not just come about, but has already existed for more than 60 years.

Its tenacity and long-term prospects have been convincingly proven by history itself. However, it does not at all follow from this that literally everything which has, so to speak, a socialist origin withstands the test of time. The struggle not only against the vestiges of capitalism in people's consciousness and behavior but also the struggle of socialist innovation against what is also socialist but obsolescent, and the testing of this innovation for its maturity and communist nature are the most characteristic features of our social reality.

And one further comment. Everything said so far about contradictions under socialism relates to a built or already developed socialist society. This looks different in a society during its transitional period when it has a multistructured economy comprising a number of sectors, including small-scale commodity and even capitalist sectors. Experience has shown that in fraternal countries where the building of the foundations of socialism is not yet complete and where the question of "who will win" has not been conclusively resolved, exacerbations of class struggle and manifestations of social antagonism are sometimes possible. I mention this because any misunderstanding here can lead and already has led to serious errors.

Question: If one picks out the most important contemporary issues in socialist theory, these will certainly include the "new attitude to labor" and the "nature of commodities under new social conditions." I remember you writing that claims are not infrequently made about the "incompatibility" of the profound remarks made by Marx and Engels on the fate of commodity production in the new society with the practice of socialist building on the pretext that it was impossible in the 19th century to predict the specific features of socialism.

To what extent do the socioeconomic forecasts made by the founders of Marxism coincide with socialist reality? I would further ask whether we always remember the economic fundamentals of Marxism? And whether we accurately fulfill its social guidelines?

Answer: The degree of correspondence of the forecasts to reality about which you speak is different at the various stages of our progress toward communism. At the same time the following may be regarded as the general trend: With the correct scientific-revolutionary policy, the compliance of the main features of the new society with the forecast of the classical authors of Marxism-Leninism gradually increases with time.

But are there no deviations? Yes, they occur, and they are to be explained by at least two factors: First, by inconsistency which is still encountered in the practical implementation of Marxist-Leninist teaching, by departure from it in particular aspects; second, by a relatively uneven implementation of certain transformations, an implementation less rapid than envisaged all those decades ago. The desire to have a far better socialist society today than is possible, given the present socioeconomic conditions, and the exaggeration of what has been achieved related to this desire are also making themselves felt and that, too, is important.

I will give an example. The former Polish leadership proclaimed the seventies as an historic phase in the building of developed socialism, when problems of the transitional period had still not been resolved in the country. Was it possible to expect success given such haste and contradictoriness? From a theoretical viewpoint the answer to this question was negative from the very outset. Unfortunately, they did not heed theory, as still happens not infrequently. Naturally, theory did not suffer by this, but considerable harm was done to the cause.

There you have your answer to the question whether we always remember the fundamentals of Marxism... Take, for example, Lenin's well known tenent that socialism is the overcoming of commodity production. This stems directly from Marx' legacy. One may keep quiet about this tenet; one may say it belongs to a past epoch, but it will nevertheless perturb the honest researcher's conscience. It can only be denied by people who expected overnight transformations: Who hoped to bed while commodity production existed and to wake up with not a trace of it left...

Where does socialism begin? With the removal of the workforce from the commodity market, the elimination of its buying and selling. It is difficult not to see in this a revolutionary change whose significance, in my opinion, is still underestimated by economic science. It is difficult not to see this as the beginning of the end of commodity production.

Instead of the automatic growth of costs and the obtaining of maximum profit, which are the aims of capitalist production, under socialism it is man himself, with his continually growing material and spiritual needs, who becomes the aim of production. And it is wholly logical that it is not so much cost, although from the viewpoint of ensuring rational management one cannot do without it, as use value, the specific usefulness of the manufactured product, which now finds itself in the forefront. Surely this changes the whole system of coordinates? And although commodity production has still not exhausted itself and monetary-cost regulators and stimulators have not yet been replaced, the emphases in the economy are being decisively shifted.

Question: Decisively..? There are quite a few opponents of the new remaining, after all.

Answer: There are opponents, and inertia in thinking is obviously still strong... I am unable, for example, to explain why certain writers make endless, abstract calls for all-round expansion of commodity and monetary relations while avoiding a scrupulously precise definition of their changed content ("the nature of commodities in new social conditions," as you put it), taking no account of the limitations imposed on them by the noncommodity character of the workforce, the public ownership of the means of production, and the planned character of the economy, and avoiding to make clear the areas and framework for using these relations in the new social system. I should like you to understand me correctly. No one is interested in artificially accelerating the eradication of money-commodity relations -- it is impermissible to treat the natural historical process in that way. It is merely a question of not lapsing into another extreme, or not lapsing into an incavious commodity-money "romanticism" devoid of the spirit of dialectics...

Let us take a particular example: The situation in a country where labor productivity lags behind the growth in monetary wages, where a notorious shortage has arisen from the fact that the mass of monetary assets accumulated by the population is still not being met by an equivalent supply of consumer goods. It is possible, without sinning against the truth, to maintain that this situation does not contain the potential for the spontaneous, uncontrollable influence of "free" money on a planned economy?

Working people and their all-round harmonious development are at the center of attention of the socialist society. How is social production to "give substances" to this attention in terms of supplying goods? It does so by supplying a certain quantity of material and spiritual benefits -- use values -- and by increasing their amount, the adequacy of which for society it is very difficult to judge in terms of its cost: This too is elementary Marxism.

However, for a long time our main accounting indicators have been cost indicators -- expressed in rubles -- which are essentially incapable of reflecting the physical composition of a manufactured product and thus do not provide the necessary information about the extent to which this product satisfies social needs.

The recognition, and naturally not just in words, of use value as the basic economic category under socialism is long overdue...

In conformity with what Marx has taught us, it is essential that our economic managers should be very strictly accountable for the material-physical content of what is produced, that is to say, for the fulfillment of the plan in terms of the product list and for product quality, while unconditionally observing socially necessary expenditure normatives. This is required by both theory and the times. There is nothing mystical or infeasible in this requirement, given the national economy's present level of provision with computer equipment. We should be more critical toward the various arguments on this matter which hold that the task of developing natural indicators and of combining them with cost indicators is inordinately difficult. Difficulties are not there to be portrayed, but to be overcome. In the words of Marx' beloved Dante:

"Fear must not rule the mind;

Otherwise we stray from achievements..."

It goes without saying that the commercial and quantitative aspect of the matter cannot be consigned to oblivion either, because it alone provides the necessary picture of the current profitability of production, which must be profitable or at least not loss-making. Economists have to firmly decide on the kind of integral indicator which is to be given preference here.

But you and I have let ourselves be carried away by the fundamental truths of Marxism...

Question: L. Yakov, a reader of the newspaper from Vladimir Oblast, considers, for example, that many of civilization's woes stem from the fact that production relations lag behind the development of the productive forces. This comes about, in his opinion, when the scientific and technical revolution in particular countries outstrips "the social revolution on a global scale."

What can you say in this regard?

Answer: I think there is a great deal of truth in the reader's assertion. The nuclear missile weapons race which U.S. imperialism is forcing on the world is nothing more than the capitalist use of the results of the scientific and technical revolution, a process showing the consequent transformation of productive forces into destructive forces. In so doing the West is not even trying to conceal its counterrevolutionary, anticommunist designs. The "crusade" declared by Reagan against real socialism is explained by his intention to seize the political initiative and stave off the objectively imminent replacement of capitalist production relations by socialist ones.

Capitalism, which is being engulfed in the abyss of its own general crisis, is becoming particularly dangerous. In the remote past slave owners and feudal lords would will on their deathbed that their wives, servants, and slaves be buried with them. Today, capitalism, as it slips away from the historical scene, is prepared to carry away with it every living thing on the earth. That is the kind of terrible reality which the gap between production relations and productive forces brings to modern mankind.

Question: We say a great deal about one of our main aims being to make the socialist way of life a natural, everyday need for people. However complex the connection between the development of economic and political structures and changes in way of life, it is still customary for many people to think that that the latter remains the most important for historical development....

Answer: Nevertheless, boosting productive forces and bringing them into line with these production relations are the most important things here. They are the universal conditions for any major social changes, including changes in the way of life.

I do not wish to embark on an interpretation of this concept. It was much disputed in the seventies. I will just say that ultimately a way of life is nothing other than a certain typical mode of vital activity which is determined by many factors and which is related to actual conditions. Activity by specific people -- if this is not taken into account you can utter many fine words about way of life but still fail to link it to life as it is.

According to this conception, a way of life possesses general characteristics originating in a certain level of productive forces and in the economic base and the political, juridical, and ideological superstructure corresponding to it, middle-tier characteristics which are particular and specific to a given social, national, or regional community of people, and finally individual (unique) characteristics, because it is above all the individual who leads a given way of life.

I hope you will excuse me for my perhaps excessively abstract reasoning, but it is essential if one is to understand the question. The aforementioned "stratification" of the way of life explains why the creation of the general conditions of the socialist mode of life can only lead to the creation of individual conditions in time, why individualists still occur in a collectivist system, and why under socialism people are encountered who unfortunately, do not lead a socialist way of life.

It thus follows that the accomplishment of a socialist revolution and the building of the foundations of socialism, which primarily change the general characteristics of the social mode of life and of social consciousness, also require the completion, or, if you prefer, the finishing off of the new system on every level of social life, and just touch, as it is now fashionable to say, every "ecological niche." And that also means, according to Marx, "changing all conditions of its industrial and political existence from top to bottom and consequently, changing the whole of its way of life too."

Question: To this day there continues to circulate in non-Marxist literature devoted to pressing contemporary problems the myth of the anti-individual character of Marxism and the impossibility of creating within the framework of Marxism -- a cold theory divorced from man -- a genuinely humanistic and realistic conception of social development.

Answer: This is perhaps the bourgeoisie's most typical sociological and propagandist bogey. The bourgeoisie wants at any price to erect an icy barrier of estrangement between Marxism and the individual. Juggling the facts is usual in such cases... However, Marxism is not at all anti-individual, it is anti-individualist, which is far from the same thing. The bourgeois individualist's viewpoint has frequently altered its verbal expression but has remained the same throughout the centuries: Provided I am alright, the rest of the world can go hang. The viewpoint of a Marxist, there is to say, a conscious worker adopting a proletarian-class stance, is that the liberation of the masses is the condition fail to suffer and feel encroached upon if the masses are in even the slightest degree oppressed, and that the free all-round development of each person is the condition for the free all-round development of all.

Socialist revolution for Marx, as subsequently it was for Lenin too, was not the consummation, but merely the starting point, the fundamental objective condition for resolving the whole range of humanist problems accumulated over the centuries, and the achievement of a state of society where the task of the free development of everyone becomes really feasible.

Bourgeois ideologists as a rule prefer the isolated well-to-do individual who is either self-satisfied or completely intimidated, a small fish in an aquarium or a philistine in his own nuclear bunker, who counts on surviving regardless of what happens to everyone else. And they call this philanthropy. Marxists, on the other hand, mold the individual's consciousness so that it is open to receive the feelings, aspirations, sufferings, and hopes of working people and of the peoples of the whole world. Is it not a slander in view of this to speak of Marxism as being a theory which is cold and divorced from man?

Question: In the light of this another question is prompted: The question of the individual's rights and freedom under socialism and capitalism. I would also like to ask you separately to talk about the political factors of labor, freedom and the role of laws as guarantors of human rights.

Answer: Back in 1919 Lenin predicted that capitalism "will raise the banner of freedom against us." Not, however, because the proletariat, victorious in the revolution, does not free the mass of the working population, but because this freedom encroaches on the bourgeoisie's freedom. Thus what is involved is not freedom as a whole but bourgeois freedom connected with the freedom of private ownership and the exploitation of labor. It was not by chance that Lenin said at that time that "freedom is, of course, for any revolution, be it socialist or democratic, a slogan which is very, very important. And our program states that freedom is deception if it is at variance with the freeing of labor from the oppression of capital."

I think that if we propagandized the Marxist-Leninist concept of freedom more comprehensively, assertively, and in a vivid journalistic form, it would have considerable ideological and political effect. After all, look at what is taking place.

In emulation of Carter, an unbridled, unpardonably mendavious campaign about "the violation of human rights" in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries is being waged. The charge of "violation of rights" leveled against us has become a propaganda stereotype, although its very threadbare, its content is visible when viewed unbiasedly. What do they have in mind here? The regulation by state organs of trips abroad, which exists in many countries in the world... Allegations made by a few dozen unacknowledged genuises, who are frequently simply individuals who are psychologically unbalanced... These miserable examples of a particularly individual nature are being used to discredit our social system. And the bourgeoisie is at the same time also managing to a certain extent to camouflage the mass repression of human rights under its own roof.

The ideological enemy stubbornly refuses to take account of our accepted traditions and norms of socialist legality and insolently tries to teach us to live in accordance with bourgeois yardsticks and standards. And this gives rise to natural protest among Soviet citizens, genuine patriots and internationalists, who are aware of the true meaning of our socialist primary. There is nothing to apologise for here or have a "complex" about. Our law [pravo] bears a class character, it represents the working people's will erected into law [zakon]. Soviet laws by their very nature do not contain repressive measures against freedom, but, on the contrary, constitute in their totality, as Marx said, "the bible of the people's freedom." Their implementation is a very important condition for the maintenance of the socialist way of life.

Question: "The broader the connection between state and society," Marx wrote, "the further and deeper will state interest spread in society and the rarer will the phenomenona of egotism, immorality, and narrow-mindedness become."

Later, Lenin pointed out that "The greater the scale and breadth of historical actions, the greater the number of people who participate in those actions, and, conversely, the more profound the transformation which we wish to carry out, then the more we must develop our interest and conscious attitude toward it and convince millions and tens of millions more people of this necessity."

Finally, Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov emphasized at the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum that "it is essential to further develop socialist democracy in its widest sense, that is to say, to develop the increasing involvement of the working masses in running state and public affairs."

Could you comment on the continuity of this task?

Answer: This task may be said to be crucial for the whole process of socialist and communist building. No sphere of our social system can function normally without the constant and all-around development of socialist democracy.

Let us take, for example, public ownership of the means of production, which, in contrast to private ownership, is essentially democratic. Surely its social and collectivist nature cannot be felt by every working person and cannot became a factor in the vital activity of that working person without involving that person in production management and without daily galvanizing in him the sense of owning the country?

Naturally, learning how to manage is no easy task. It requires both enormous organizational measures and widespread educational work. A high level of political culture among working people and the whole population is needed, and our party is steadfastly seeking to bring this about.

Question: Marx defined the capitalist formation as the concluding stage of the prehistory of human society. It is historically inevitable that the bearers of the bourgeois world outlook experience a crisis of their cultural-ideological foundations and ideals toward the end of this stage. How do ideology and culture in the West appear today from this standpoint?

Answer: Ideology and culture are not identical concepts. There has long been a serious gap between bourgeois ideology and culture. It is an eclectic mixture of concepts and propagandist cliches molding a conformist mentality and helping to spiritually cement the private ownership system. It is true that the bourgeoisie, in pursuing its ideological goals, has begun to turn to science increasingly often in recent decades. But this turning toward science is specifically one-sided in character. The main thing here is to use scientific conclusions for its own ends and to control the spiritual sphere with the aid of these conclusions in an attempt to reinforce the stereotypes and "values" of the bourgeois way of life. Those poeple who hope to borrow something useful for themselves from bourgeois ideology are deeply in error. Bourgeois ideology is the gangrene of social consciousness and threatens to infect the whole social organism. It can hoodwink people through its scientific appearance, but it is essentially destructive.

As for culture, everything here is more complex. We can only welcome, for example, the remarkable, albeit in many ways contradictory, phenomenon that is the modern American novel. As a reader I hold dear the names of such modern foreign writers as Wilder, Warren, Marquez, Maurois, Moravia, Remarque, Aldridge, and Fallada. Nor can I recall withou delight the concentrated truth and human courage which the films of Kramer present me with... But do they have a significant impact on cultural life? Unfortunately, not.

In essence, all Western channels of information and consumption of spiritual values are filled by industrially produced items of "mass culture" designed for undemanding or, at best, average taste. The total license which books, the cinema, and television propagate today erodes any conception of morality. Even the classics, which used to ennoble people, are subjected to adaptation and debasement and are doggedly reworked to form part of the same standard concoction of "mass culture."

The spiritual nature of people in the West is being subjected to considerable erosion. Naturally, this trend is coming into collision with countertrends and with vigorous protest against its lack of spirituality and its immorality. But the ruling class continues to persistently corrupt the population, nullifying the create freedom of cultural figures and preventing them from honorably fulfilling their mission as advocates of Truth, Good, and Beauty. It is also harmful that the cultural life of West European and Latin American countries and of Japan is being subjected to aggressive Americanization and that transatlantic "mass culture" is seeking to crowd out more developed and humane national cultures (even though, naturally, they are less mobile from the standpoint of widespread assimilation).

A pessimistic picture, is it not? But there is nothing that can be done, since what is involved is a social system which has long been going through a general crisis.

Question: I recall an idea once expressed in scientific literature which, in my opinion, is very important for our talk today: the idea that socialism is in vital need of exact, systematic self-analysis and all-round self-knowledge precisely because it is a scientifically organized society. There is here, it seems to me, a direct link with the assessment of Marxism that has already been made. And I recall Marx' words that "...constructing the future and proclaiming definitive decisions for all future time is not our business..."

Answer: The idea which you refer to is fundamental, in my view. However, that does not mean that it is universally implemented by everyone. Thorough Marxist-Leninist training is required for that. And it is precisely this training (and not only special education) which is a necessary precondition for an understanding of the social change taking place and for their correct regulation. However, at times, even social scientists lack the patience to acquire it.

...I have on my table two volumes of the selected works of Karl Marx which the party publishing house brought out half a century ago to mark the semicentennial of his death. The covers are of gray cloth, the paper coarse and gray, the print faint, but these unprepossessing old books are dearer to me than any glossy editions. Many people of my age began their Marxist education with them, having been emotionally prepared for it by the searing heat of the Patriotic War.

The "Communist Manifesto" has won people over from its very first words by its incomparable terse formulations, logic, and passion. Subsequent works -- "Wage-Labor and Capital" and "Wages, Prices, and Profit" -- demonstrated with mathematical rigor and elegance and irrefutability of Marx' theory of surplus value. These were truly ideas "which take possession of our thought and conquer our beliefs and to which the intellect shackles our conscience -- they are fetters from which it is impossible to break free without first breaking one's heart, they are demons which man can only vanquish through submitting to them." Once in their thrall, one may with concidence and ease study "The German Ideology," "The Anti-Deuhring," "The Critique of the Political Economy," "Das Kapital," "The Civil War in France," and "A Critique of the Gotha Program" and assimilate all of Marx' legacy from mature methodological standpoints.

Do not think that I have for some reason suddenly taken it into my head to enumerate the well-known classic works on scientific communism. I simply want to reproach some specialist for paying insufficient attention to them. I remember working in a USSR Academy of Sciences' scientific research institute of economics in the sixties and being truly amazed at not discovering Marx' 'Das Kapital' on the reading list for the qualifying examination for admission to the graduate course [kandidatskiy minimum] in political economy. And there were quite a few young people among the institute's graduate students who had a background in the arts, law, and finance who were in need of considerable additional training in political economy. It turned out that even among the academically "established" there were those who had never read "Das Kapital." It is embarrassing to mention this, but it would surely be wrong to keep quiet about it.

It is obvious that we must organize better the early, foundation-laying Marxist education of young people and design it in such a way that they have an in-depth knowledge of the precursors and history of Marxism, are immune to alien tendencies, and are capable of examining any fact or scientific result from the standpoint of Marxist-Leninist methodology. For how else can one ensure socialism's exact, systematic self-analysis and all-round self-knowledge?

The organic continuation of the analysis carried out by Marx in "Das Kapital" and by Lenin in his works "The Development of Capital in Russia" and "Imperialism as the Highest Stage of Capitalism," and the extension of the principles of this analysis to the new socioeconomic formation are research tasks of truly fundamental character and strategic significance which are still unresolved.

The regimentation of the future and the proclamation of definitive formulas for future times mentioned in the quotation you cited, appear, it seems to me, whenever certain comrades try (quote possibly with good motives) to combine their superficial knowledge with a large measure of imagination. However, this style has nothing in common with Marxism. Lenin described Marx' approach to defining the main features of socialist and communism on the basis of research into the leading tendencies of the development of the capitalist society of his time as not having a trace of utopianism. This is essentially the same approach that Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov mentions. "A realistic analysis of the existing situation and clear guidelines to the future which combine experience of life with our Communist Party's ultimate aims," he stated at the Central Committee June Plenum, "are what I should like to see in new draft of the CPSU Program."

Question: During his studies at Berlin University, Marx would write poetry, ballads, and songs at night... It was at that time that these rebellious, audacious lines appeared:

... I am ready to seize the whole world
By strength of reason and feeling.

Do you not find that this youthful poetry marvellously reflects the themes of the whole of the rest of the life of this scientist and fighter?

Answer: Yes, there was no divergence between these lines and reality. The youthful romanticism expressed in them stayed with Marx until the end of his life. You no doubt remember that in answer to the question "What is your conception of happiness?" in the famous questionnaire presented to him by his daughters, Marx replied "Struggle." Another incident is also characteristic. To a journalist's question, this time very much a philosophical question, "What is existence?", Marx again answered "Struggle!"

The life creed of the Prometheus of revolution is confirmed both by his long selfless activity and by the assessments of his closest comrades in arms. Marx was first and foremost a revolutionary, Engels said. Taking part in the overthrow of capitalist society and participating in the freeing of the proletariat were "his life's vocation. Struggle was his element. And he fought with the kind of passion, determination, and success with which few have fought."

Marx lives among us even today. He lives and fights. Marxism, which is devoid of any blind spontaneity, functions and is enriched in the environment of conscious class struggle.

SARATOV OBKOM OFFICIAL ON DISCIPLINE CAMPAIGN

PM161456 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 84 First Edition p 2

[Article by V. Belopakhov, chairman of the Saratov CPSU Obkom party commission, under the rubric "Party Life: The Communist's Honor and Prestige": "Put Your Own House in Order"]

[Excerpt] Our production pacemakers are, as a rule, people not only of great professional skill but also of irreproachable moral qualities. That is why their example is so attractive and persuasive. Working in the party commission, however, one also has to analyze actions of a different kind perpetrated by some party members. In so doing it becomes clear that such people cannot lead others on to good deeds and thus must be severely punished and expelled from the party's ranks.

Guided by the party Central Committee's resolution on the report of the Saratov Obkom's work, we have no stepped up considerably the attention that we pay to Communists' observance of the Leninist norms and principles of party life. What do we consider to be paramount? Strengthening discipline, stepping up the struggle against mismanagement, abuse of official position, bureaucracy, and other negative phenomena, and increasing the level of responsiblity for plan fulfillment.

There should be just one rule for all Communists: Put your own house in order. That means that every party member, irrespective of the post he holds, should set an example in labor and conduct. This applies particularly to leaders. Those who have failed to understand this sooner or later forfeit their comrades' confidence.

N. Zhutayev, chief of the Saratovselkhozmontazh Trust's start-up and adjustment work administration, believed himself to have considerable licence. He initiated various noisy drinking sprees: He would celebrate his birthday or even that of a close friend during work time. And when his son got married he did not give it a moment's thought before celebrating the wedding during work time, and on official premises, too. Party organs had to intervene in this affair and establish the necessary order. Saratov's Leninisky Raykom reprimanded Zhutayev severely, endorsed his work record, and removed him from his post as administration chief.

Or consider I. Sokolov, former director of the Engels No 3 Ferreconcrete Plant. This man lost all sense of modesty and, by violating the established procedure, acquired two cars for himself. The outcome was predictable: He was called to task and no longer works in his post.

Where do such instances generally occur, and why? Most often in collectives where the role of the primary party organizations is weak, the significance of party monitoring has been denigrated, and a heightened sense of implacability toward shortcomings is lacking.

Soviet and administrative organs sometimes show an intolerable liberalism. This was revealed, for example, during the construction of detached houses and dachas and in the acquisition of apartments in Perelyubskiy, Tatischchevskiy, and Balashovskiy Rayons.

Just imagine, the violators even had protectors. There have been occasions when some local soviets had responded to applications from prosecutor's office organs for their consent to institute criminal proceedings against some deputies by a totally unjustified refusal in an attempt to protect people from punishment.

I shall cite the following instance. M. Tsarev, former director of the Balashov Poultry Farm had been distorting data, wasting meat, and embezzling state property; in other words, he had committed crimes punishable under five articles of the RSFSR Criminal Code. However, the Repnovskiy Rural Soviet refused the prosecutor's request that he be made criminally responsible. The Balashovskiy Raykom, in turn, merely fined him, quite contrary to the requirements of the CPSU rules. It was only after intervention by the obkom that Tsarev was expelled from the party and the investigative organs took up his case.

As we can see, other party committees do not always adopt a principled stance, either. Such was the case, in particular in Balakovskiy Rayon. An article in the local newspaper, VOLZHSKAYA NOV, rightly criticized mismanagement by N. Morozov, director of the Khlebnovskiy Sovkhoz, who had been promoted by that time to the post of chief of the rayon agricultural administration. V. Uvarov, former raykom first secretary, took up the defense of the leader, who had been fined, and with this aim in mind sent two department chiefs to a sovkhoz party meeting to try to refute the facts outlined in the newspaper. The obkom viewed this behavior strictly. Uvarov is no longer raykom secretary. Moroz was relieved of his duties as chief of the agricultural administration and severely reprimanded with an endorsement on his work record.

The obkom has been striving to ensure that an atmosphere of high principledness and strict exactingness is created in all cities and rayons. As a rule, much work is ruined in those places where the importance of this is underestimated. It was for slackening their exactingness toward cares that A. Babkin, first secretary of the Yekaterinovskiy Raykom, and I. Beloglazov, first secretary of the Ptischevo Gorkom, were dismissed from their posts.

An analysis of the reasons for cases involving personnel shows that these are usually not just lapses in individual's behavior but evidence of serious flaws in the ideological and educational work by party organizations and committees, as the CPSU Central Committee resolution on the Saratov Obkom's report rightly pointed out to us.

We realize that the party commission has by no means exhausted all its potential influence for strengthening discipline and increasing the responsibility of party members. Our work still has quite a few shortcomings. Thus the fulfillment of party and government directives on major questions of construction, increasing labor productivity, and saving material and financial resources is verified only sporadically. Some rayon party commissions have confined their work merely to preparing questions on party recruiting and the examination of personnel matters. As I have already said, there still is much to be done to increase the militancy of primary party organizations and to step up their monitoring of the administration's activity. For example, the practice persists in some places whereby personnel cases are discussed within a narrow "private" circle, that is, party committees try to "protect" a leader's prestige and circumvent the primary party organization which has an adverse effect on cadres' education.

In brief, we must work and work. Each decision taken on a personnel matter should be addressed not merely to the person in question. This is a school of party education for many and for the whole party organization. That is why publicity and broad participation by Communists are important here.

Only those who selflessly serve society and the people and thereby achieve genuine prestige among their comrades can be an example and lead others. We shall elevate the title and importance of the party member.

ARMENIA'S SARKISOV INTERVIEWED ON LETTERS

PM161219 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with B.Ye. Sarkisov, chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet presidium, by "our correspondent for the Armenian SSR" Sergey Bablumyan under the rubric "From the Soviets' Experience": "With Attention Toward People" -- date and place not stated; first two paragraphs are IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] Almost 3 years have elapsed since the CPSU Central Committee adopted the resolution "On Measures for the Further Improvement of Work With Working People's Letters and Proposals in the Light of the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress" and a little over a year since the Central Committee Politburo examined the question of working people's letters reaching the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The instructions in these documents are a program of actions for local soviets at all levels.

Much has been done recently in Armenia and is still being done for the best organization of the reception of citizens in Soviet institutions and the more attentive examination of letters, complaints, and statements. What is sought here primarily is the strict fulfillment of legal norms governing this important work. At the same time there is a desire not merely to observe formally the deadlines and procedure for processing complaints but also to investigate the very crux of why someone has come to a reception or taken up his pen. This quite diverse range of issues of importance to citizens was the subject of the talk between Sergey Bablumyan, our correspondent for the Armenian SSR, and B.Ye. Sarkisov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Question: In 1983 the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium received 6,000 requests from citizens, 3,735 written and 2,064 verbal, put during receptions. Babken Yesayevich, I should like to ask you to comment on these figures. What are the dynamics of the mail reaching the Presidium?

Answer: I could not say whether this is a lot or a little, or whether the number of letters has decreased or increased compared with previous years. I think that, in the diverse and complex work with letters, figure indicators cannot serve as definitive criteria. The reception of citizens and their letters are not amenable to planning. Someone is compelled to take up his pen by a specific life situation, a specific need, circumstances he has usually not foreseen. That is why I believe that we must assess work with letters primarily by how profoundly they are analyzed, by how correctly the real reasons prompting citizens to turn to us are revealed, by the measures taken to eliminate rightly indicated shortcomings, and by how work has been organized for the regular generalization of oral and written appeals.

To answer your question more specifically, I would say that the analysis of the mail which has been coming in recently attests primarily to the fact that there has been a marked increase in the number of proposals and comments connected with improving state organs' work, and that questions of public importance have begun to be raised more frequently.

People's growing activeness and their personal involvement in what is happening in various spheres of our life are graphic evidence of the direct impact of the large-scale measures which our party's Central Committee is implementing in the light of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress.

We are seeking to ensure that in the Presidium apparatus and in the local soviet ispolkoms work with letters is a daily matter of paramount importance. This is greatly assisted by the practice introduced in our republic whereby Presidium sessions discuss how citizens' appeals have been examined over the quarter, 6 months, 9 months, and the year as whole. The materials submitted by Presidium members contain an analysis of the nature of letters and the necessary generalizations and append information on the results of the examination of letters. To some degree or another, the same practice exists in local soviets. I should like to note that the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee recently studied in depth the work in organizing citizens' reception at Yerevan's rayisopolkoms. This naturally lent impetus to the improvement of all work with letters and citizens' appeals.

Question: A little earlier, Babken Yesayevich, you spoke of the importance of work on generalizing letters. How is this carried out in practice?

Answer: Reacting promptly to all incoming letters, resolving the questions raised in them, and giving a clear reply to the applicant -- all this is very important. But it is not enough. A no less substantial part of work with letters is knowing how to generalize them, to see the problem which lies behind a personal case. For instance, in their letters and at personal receptions citizens addressed many criticial remarks to the services sphere and law enforcement organs workers. In this connection the Supreme Soviet Presidium heard reports from the minister of consumer services, the minister of justice, and the minister of internal affairs. A session of the republic's Supreme Soviet heard and discussed the health minister's report on the fulfillment of health, we invited Comrade Burenkov, USSR minister of health, to the session.

However, let me return to the way we analyze the mail. A letter may point to a negative fact which appears to be isolated, requiring a one-time action, so to speak. For instance, we received a letter from a machine operator in the village of Vardablur, Aragatskiy Rayon, complaining of the unjust sentence passed by a court on his son, also a machine operator. By a court decision the latter had been obliged to pay a large sum of money for damage he had caused. A check by the competent organs carried out on instructions from the Presidium established that the sovkhoz director, without preparing the relevant technical documents and without the compulsory agreement with the relevant organizations, had obliged the machine operator to dig a trench, as a result of which underground communications were damaged. The sovkhoz director shifted the blame, and the investigating and court organs, displaying a strictly formal approach, failed to reveal the true culprit. The case was reexamined and the true culprit was sanctioned. However, we nonetheless decided to discuss this incident at a Supreme Soviet Presidium session. A resolution was adopted giving instructions to the local ispolkoms and the leaders of the law enforcement organs to draw the proper conclusions from this isolated instance.

Question: Please describe how the reception of citizens by the Presidium leadership and yourself personally is organized.

Answer: Every second and fourth Thursday of the month, I personally receive visitors. The deputy chairman and secretary of the Presidium receive visitors every week on set days alternately during the day and in the evening.

In addition we have organized the reception of citizens by members of the Presidium heading sections directly on the spot: in the ispolkoms, at enterprises, and on kolkhozes. Receiving people locally is organized according to a predetermined schedule, about which the collectives receive prior notification. Representatives of city and rayon soviets take part in these receptions -- this is done with a view to the efficient examination of questions within the competence of local organs of power. For cases requiring the intervention of republican organs, each receiver produces a substantiated submission. In the past 3 years responsible workers of the Presidium apparatus received 18,563 people. Of these they received 4,313 locally. Over the same period the Presidium leadership received 3,080 people and I personally received 1,618 people. Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies received 20,676 people. I should also like to note that the deputies' reception of citizens expands the current concept of a reception whereby citizens come to an official. Here he goes to an elected representative of the people who, representing the organ of power, resolves the matter in conjunction with his voter.

Question: You have described in sufficient detail the organization of reception and work with letters. But how is control over the execution of resolutions based on a person's complaint organized?

Answer: I have already mentioned the letters examined directly in the Presidium apparatus.

The question of that proportion of letters on which we instruct republican and rayon organization leaders to take action is resolved somewhat differently. We have reorganized the reception room for the section for receiving citizens and monitoring the examination of working people's letters. Monitoring functions have been sharply demarcated. Ministries, departments, and organizations have been "attached" to a group of responsible workers. I would like to note that we take some of the letters sent to us under our direct control. That means that the ministry and department leaders must report personally to the Presidium on the results of the examination of letters and the measures taken on their basis. The leaders themselves answer another category of letters. But a strict procedure has been established here -- copies of the replies are unfailingly dispatched to the newly created section. The section has thus been able to verify the promptness of replies and their essential content and regularly to generalize the work which is being done.

The apparatus' organizational work with the ministries and departments has thus increased with this sector's creation and there has consequently been an increase in the effectiveness of control. On the basis of the generalizations the section has undertaken, the Presidium has already heard reports from the Armenian SSR prosecutor, the chairman of the supreme court, and the leaders of a number of the republic's ministries on work with letters received from the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Question: What place do you assign to replies in the entire complex of work with letters?

Answer: The reply to a letter completes all the work. A person's attitude toward people's needs may be judged by the way it is composed. Unqualified, poorly reasoned replies are one of the main sources of repeated letters. A precise. intelligible reply geared to the crux of the matter not only makes it possible to reduce the number of repeated appeals but is also one element in the population's legal education.

Question: And one more question. In March this year the USSR Supreme Soviet elections will take place. Is the approach of this important event affecting the nature of the incoming mail and, if so, how?

Answer: Every event of this magnitude in our country is traditionally preceded by a wave of labor and political activeness. People seek to work better, more efficiently, and in a more fully productive way. The letters we are receiving now speak of unanimous support for the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and the propositions and conclusions contained in the speech delivered at it by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov. The approaching Supreme Soviet elections -- and this is also part of our traditions -- have sharpened the critical view of shortcomings and omissions in the activity of a number of ministries, departments, and organizations so that, having overcome them, we may make more rapid headway.

GRISHIN ADDRESSES MOSCOW PARTY CONFERENCE

PM151541 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 84 pp 1-2

[Unattributed "Information Report": "Conference of the Capital's Communists"]

[Text] The 25th Moscow City party organization conference completed its work in the Hall of Columns of the House of the Unions yesterday.

Prolonged applause greeted Comrades G.A. Aliyev, V.I. Vorotnikov, V.V. Grishin, M.S. Solomentsev, D.F. Ustinov, K.U. Chernenko, P.N. Demichev, V.V. Kuznetsov, B.N. Ponomarev, V.M. Cherbrikov, M.V. Zimyanin, I.V. Kapitonov, Ye.K. Ligachev, and N.I. Ryzhkov, who were taking part in the second day of the conference's work.

The discussion of the Moscow Gorkom and Auditing Commission reports continued. Speeches were delivered by Comrade B.A. Gryaznov, first secretary of Frunzenskiy CPSU Raykom; Comrade A.V. Malyshev, rolling-press operator at the Serp i Molot Metallurgical Plant; Comrade V.F. Promyslov, chairman of Moscow Gorispolkom; Comrade V.I. Korshunov, actor at the USSR Malyy State Academy Theater and party bureau secretary; Comrade A.G. Bortsov, first secretary of Moscow Komsomol Gorkom; Comrade I.L. Paristyy, chief of the Moscow railroad; Comrade F.F. Kuznetsov, first secretary of the Moscow Writers' Organization Board; Comrade V.A. Ponomarev, chief of the Moscow Air Defense District Political Directorate; Comrade L.D. Shumilina, chief of a department of the city's No. 108 polyclinic and party bureau secretary; and Comrade V.I. Bobkov, driver at the No. 10 vehicle combine of the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Administration of Motor Vehicle Transport.

The closing speech was delivered by V.V. Grishin, first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

The discussion of the gorkom and Auditing Commission reports ended. Some 22 delegates spoke in the debates, including secretaries of party raykoms and primary party organizations, leaders of soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organs, enterprises and organizations, scientific institutions and creative unions, and leading workers. As the authorized representatives of party organizations, all the speakers analyzed critically the results of the work done by the gorkom and the city party organization in the period under review. The speeches were businesslike and constructive in character. They noted successes and shortcomings in the work of the city party organization, the gorkoms, and other organizations and offered specific suggestions to improve their activity. All this has considerably enriched the content of the gorkom and Auditing Commission reports.

Many delegates have proposed that the work of Moscow Gorkom be evaluated positively. Allow me to thank the comrades for their substantive speeches and their positive assessment of Moscow Gorkom's activity.

All the city party organization's work, V.V. Grishin said, is characterized by high ideological-political standard and profound party-mindedness and principledness, and demonstrates with new force the indestructible unity and cohesion of the capital's communists and of the entire Moscow City party organization around the CPSU Central Committee.

All the delegates who addressed the conference fully approved the activity of the party Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in implementing the domestic and foreign policy formulated by the 26th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June and December (1983) Plenums.

Under the CPSU Central Committee's leadership the Soviet people are moving confidently along the path of economic and social progress.

The CPSU Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo, and Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, are consistently and persistently pursuing a principled and balanced peace-loving foreign policy and are doing everything necessary to preserve peace and divert the threat of nuclear war from mankind.

The communists and working people of the capital, like all Soviet people, wholly support and approve the practical steps and measures being taken by the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government to strengthen our country's defense capability and to safeguard the security of the Soviet people and their allies.

On behalf of Moscow's Communists and working people the conference delegates expressed firm determination, in the acutely worsened international situation, to increase their labor efforts to further strengthen the Soviet state's economic and defense might and to struggle increasingly actively for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 11th 5-Year Plan targets and of the tasks of communist building.

The conference delegates, V.V. Grishin continued, summarized the results of the city party organization's work in the past 3 years. They noted that under the leadership of party organizations, the capital's working people have achieved considerable successes in fulfilling the 26th CPSU Congress decisions.

At the same time the conference drew attention to the existing shortcomings and omissions. The activity of party organs and other city organizations was strictly analyzed. The work of certain enterprises, construction and transportation organizations, and scientific institutions was criticized.

The conference delegates rightly pointed out the need to further improve the workstyle of the party gorkom, Moscow Gorispolkom, and other organizations, strengthen discipline and organization, increase cadres; responsibility for the fulfillment of state plans and party and government directives, and improve all aspects of the activity of party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and economic organs.

The new gorkom must draw conclusions from the remarks and proposals made by conference delegates, eliminate shortcomings, and ensure the further improvement of organizational and political work.

In the period ahead the main thing will be the struggle to successfully meet the 5-year-plan targets, comprehensively increase national economic efficiency and labor productivity, accelerate scientific and technical progress, and make economical and thrifty use of material, energy, labor, and financial resources by increasing working people's creative activity and launching widespread socialist competition.

It is necessary to ensure that each party organization focus its efforts on the key problems of economic development, on improving the communist education of working people, and on increasing the responsibility of cadres for the work in hand, ensure the unity of political, organizational, and economic activity, and strive to improve party monitoring and the verification of execution, the strengthening of socialist labor discipline, and the introduction of exemplary order and organization in production.

There can be no doubt that the city's party organization and the new Moscow Gorkom will do everything necessary to successfully fulfill the responsible tasks facing them.

Our conference has received greetings and congratulations from union republic Communist Party Central Committees, obkoms and gorkoms, party organizations, military districts, and organizations of the fraternal parties in the capitals of the socialist community countries.

The conference has received many wishes for success in its work from party organizations, enterprise and organization collectives, and individual working people in Moscow. Many labor reports have been received on the fulfillment of plan targets ahead of schedule by enterprises and organizations in sectors of the capital's economy in honor of our conference. All this demonstrates once again the Moscow City party organization's broad ties with the masses and the unity of party and people.

On the conference's behalf, allow me to express heartfelt gratitude to our foreign friends, the union republic Communist Party Central Committees, the obkoms and gorkoms, and all organizations, labor collectives, and individual comrades for their greetings and reports and wishes for success in our conference's work. We can say that their wishes have been fulfilled, our conference is proceeding successfully at a high organizational and political level.

Permit me also to wish those party organizations, communists, all working people in the republics, oblasts, and cities, party organizations and collectives of enterprises and institutions in Moscow, and individual comrades who sent greetings, new successes in their work to fulfill the economic and cultural building plans for the sake of further strengthening our motherland's might and the Soviet people's happiness and prosperity.

Work is now underway in the country, V.V. Grishin continued, to prepare for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections. The city party organization's task consists of ensuring that the holding of the preelection events is closely linked with the implementation of economic and social development tasks and the activation of the struggle to fulfill the targets for 1984 and the 11th 5-Year Plan.

For the successful resolution of the imediate tasks it is necessary to continue to comprehensively strengthen the city's party organization, broaden its ties with working people, and improve party organizational and ideological education work. Our party's strength is in its unity with the people, in its close link with the masses, and in the organization, discipline, and high ideological standard of Communists.

The Moscow city party organization must close its ranks even more tightly around the CPSU Central Committee, continue to act as the Central Committee's reliable and loyal bulwark, and mobilize working people to fulfill its decisions and the plans of communist creation.

On behalf of the capital's Communists, V.V. Grishin said in conclusion, allow me to assure the Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo, and Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, that the Moscow city party organization will continue to justify with honor its role as our Leninist party's advanced detachment, and that Moscow's Communists and working people will tirelessly strengthen our motherland's economic and defense might and will make every effort to achieve new successes in communist building.

A decision approving the work of Moscow Gorkom in the period under review and deeming it satisfactory was adopted unanimously. The report of the Moscow CPSU organization's Auditing Commission was also approved unanimously.

The unanimously adopted resolution of the 25th city party conference says: The Moscow City CPSU organization values the confidence of the Central Committee and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and rates highly their constant assistance and support. The Moscow party organization sees its main task in working tirelessly to implement the CPSU's political course. It will continue to be the party's militant and advanced detachment, loyal to the great Lenin's banner.

Moscow's Communists, firmly united around the CPSU Central Committee, will launch an increasingly active struggle to implement the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and of the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, to further strengthen our great motherland's might, and to implement the historic tasks of the present stage of communist building.

Then the conference examined the next item on the agenda -- the election of the new Moscow Gorkom and Auditing Commission. After a secret ballot the delegates unanimously approved the protocols of the tellers' commission.

Some 175 Moscow Gorkom members, 57 gorkom candidate members, and 47 Auditing Commission members were elected.

With tremendous fervor and enthusiasm the conference delegates adopted a greetings letter to the CPSU Central Committee and to Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

V.V. Grishin, first secretary of Moscow Gorkom, delivered the party conference's closing speech.

The 25th Moscow City party conference was declared closed. The delegates stood and sang the party anthem, the Internationale. Tumultuous applause erupted in the hall again and greetings were heard in honor of the CPSU, its Leninist Central Committee, and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov.

FUTURE SEED PRODUCTION TASKS VIEWED AS 'CRUCIAL'

PM081457 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 1 Feb 84 p 1

[N. Osychkin "Agricultural Review": "The Key to the Harvest"]

[Text] The workers of the agro-industrial complex have marked the first weeks of the 4th year of the 5-year plan with shock work. Everywhere competition is well under way for the implementation of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum, for an increase in the production and procurements of agricultural products and fulfillment of the Food Program targets.

The main thing now is to make thorough preparations for spring sowing and to make a timely effort to increase the yield per hectare. The paramount part in this crucial work is played by seeds -- the key to the next harvest. The farmers have many highly productive strains and hybrids at their disposal.

Most kolkhozes and sovkhozes have all the seeds they need and sowing preparations are better this year. In the Ukraine 99 percent of the tested seeds were of good quality; 94 percent of them were deemed first- or second-class seeds, first class accounting for 89 percent. The preparation of seed stocks is nearly complete in the Kuban, in Belgorod, Voronezh, Saratov, and Ulyanovsk Oblasts, and in Chuvash ASSR. Latvian farms have all the high-class seeds they require. The success is due to the creation in all rayon agro-industrial associations of specialized seed-growing enterprises complete with a sound production base and safe storage facilities.

At the same time, as was noted at the session of the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium Agro-Industrial Complex Commission, in a number of republics, krays, and oblasts there are significant shortcomings in the preparation of seed stocks for sowing. Some 61 percent of the seeds are substandard in Amur Oblast, 52 percent in Irkutsk Oblast, 43 percent in Chita Oblast, 36 percent in Kurgan Oblast, and 55 percent in Buryat ASSR. In Georgia some farms consistently fail to provide their own seeds and to create the requisite reserve stocks because of inadequate attention to seed-growing matters. Poor quality, nonregionalized strains are being sown on considerable areas. Even now 12 percent of the stocks are substandard and only 14 percent can be regarded as first-class.

As is known, last year some farms were unable to procure spring crop seeds in the requisite quantity and of the requisite range because of adverse harvesting conditions, especially in eastern parts of the country. That is why, before the spring, it is important to fill the gap and make sure every kolkhoz and sovkhoz has enough seeds for the whole spring sowing area. In this respect interfarm and interoblast exchanges and the prompt delivery of seeds from state resources can be of assistance. In Estonia, for example, freight marked "grain" travels nonstop. Seed material is currently being delivered to the farms operating in the most difficult conditions. People's control staff are keeping an eye on the times and quality of shipments.

Unfortunately this is not the case everywhere. By 15 January RSFSR kolkhozes and sovkhozes had taken only 131,000 tons of seeds from state resources on an exchange basis -- one-fourth of the allotted amount. The work is particularly behind in Krasnoyarsk Kray and Novosibirsk and Chelyabinsk Oblasts. Deliveries of quality seeds to farms in Sverdlovsk and Tyumen Oblasts and a number of parts of Kazakhstan are slow. The delays are often due to transportation shortages. The Ministry of Railways is taking steps to supply the number of freightcars ordered.

It is important to ensure that the seeds are loaded on time at USSR MInistry of Procurements enterprises and are shipped quickly to the station at the other end and hence to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Special attention should be paid to durum wheat seeds of which insufficient amounts have been procured in some zones. Every quintal must be accounted for and ways of replenishing stocks must be found. This year the Ukraine's V.Ya. Yuryev Scientific Research Institute of Plant Growing, Selection, and Genetics will markedly increase supplies of super quality stock seeds of spring grain, especially "Kharkovskaya-46" durum wheat, for farms in the Rals, the Volga area, West Siberia, and Kazakhstan. The barley field will be rejuvenated and enriched with intensive varieties, "Odesskiy-100," "Nutans-518" and "Druzhba," grown by Odessa scientists. These and other high-yield and drought- and disease-resistant selection innovations must be rapidly propagated and must occupy a fitting place in the fields.

Preparation of seeds of buckwheat, millet, rice, sunflower, fiber flax, cotton, peas, soybeans, and perennial grasses for sowing must be accelerated on farms in the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. In this respect an example is being set by kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Donetask Oblast which have made sure that all the sunflower seeds are of a high sowing quality and have ensured safe storage in warehouses in which heat generators and artificial microclimate installations ensure the correct moisture level for the seed material. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of farms in Tula Oblast and the Mordovian and Bashkir ASSR's where one-third of the buckwheat seeds are not up to scratch. There is a great deal of substandard seed millet lying in storehouses on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Penza Oblast and Altay Kray.

More corn is to be sown for grain this year. The seeds are currently being prepared and shipped to consumers but the rate and quality of the work are inadequate. The USSR Ministry of Procurements, the USSR Varietal Seed Raising Production Association and agro-industrial complex associations must ensure stricter observance of seed material preparation schedules. Special attention should be paid to be introduction of progressive methods of presowing treatment of seeds involving coating and waterproofing. Ukrainian enterprises and farms are short of sacks for seeds. Supply organizations must resolve this question without delay. Ministry of Fertilizer Production enterprises must accelerate supplies of disinfectants. Every single hectare must be treated against smut, rust, downy mildew, blight, wilt, and other diseases and pests.

Careful preparation of seeds for all agricultural crops and safe storage prior to spring sowing will create a reliable foundation for a big harvest and for the fullfillment of the plans and pledges of the 4th year of the 5-year plan.

FACTORS AFFECTING SPRING SOWING PACE NOTED

LD170413 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast, video talk by political observer L.A. Vosnesenskiy]

[Text] Hello, comrades! Perhaps high agricultural science can say that these data are not precise enough, but agricultural practice, the peasants' experience does teach that each day lost during the optimum and best time for spring fieldwork results in losses of quintals of grain per hectare of sown areas. This is why both in villages and towns the all-round and timely preparation for spring sowing goes into a more intensive phase. Presently this work has a particular importance.

You see in agriculture too we have to fulfill the task outlined by the December Plenum and endorsed by the February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee to keep the tempo gained last year, to actively develop the positive processes, and to make them more steady in their character. To achieve this in agriculture it is above all necessary to lay a firm foundation for this year's harvest. What is being done for this purpose? To start with -- the retention and accumulation of moisture on the fields. This year this work is particularly valuable because there is not enough moisture in a number of places. Meanwhile, not all farms where this is necessary are the extensive arsenals of moisture-saving technology being used fully or most effectively. The work of providing high-quality seeds and sufficient sowing material for farms has not yet been completed everywhere. Furthermore, the republics that start sowing earlier than others -- Armenia and Uzbekistan -- are lagging furthest behind. There are many seeds of low standard in Kazakhstan, Vologda, Kalinin, Yaroslavl, Kirov and Chelyabinsk Oblasts and in western and eastern Siberia. But the exchange of these seeds, for high quality ones is going slowly. The main problem is that in many kolkhozes and sovkhozes the work is not going energetically enough to bring seeds to a standard suitable for sowing.

The preparation of machinery: Unfortunately, as a result of late and poor quality repairs, each year tens and tens of thousands of tractors and other agricultural machinery and equipment stand idle in our country. Meanwhile, in Perm, Tryumen, Kurgan, Semipalatinsk, Turgay, Chimkent, and a number of other eastern oblasts, the preparation of machinery is going more slowly than in the country as a whole. Much here depends also on machine makers. It is also necessary to improve the supplies of spare parts by such enterprises as the Altay motorworks, the Kharkov tractor engine works, the Chelyabinsk tractor works, and the Odessapochvomash, Krasnyyaksay and other production associations. There is no need to say that each additional spare part, each additional component will be welcome in the villages.

Stocks of fuel accumulated on time, mineral fertilizers with the necessary ratio of nutritive substances and combined with obligatory organic ones, the complete utilization of improved lands, the perfection of the structure of sowing and crop selection, which should correspond fully to the scientifically-based systems of agriculture that are being implemented at present everywhere, with special emphasis being placed on food crops such as wheat, are all also irreplaceable conditions to prepare for the future harvest, the increase of gross yields in plant-growing. Of course there is the question of cadres, cadres and cadres again, above all machine operators. Often the machinery is idle because there is a cadre shortage. Besides, industrial technologies are being adopted more broadly at present, from 7 million hectares in 1983 to 9 million hectares this year. At present the harvest depends more and more on the qualification of cadres, on their ability to use these modern technologies and increase their efficiency. A big role in the solution of the cadre problem in the countryside in the increase of labor productivity in agriculture, can be played by a kollectiv contract. It is very good that in one year, the last, the number of teams and links organized on this principle has increased in plant-growing alone from 40,000 to 100,000. As a rule, they asure a better utilization of land, the best yield per hectare and reduced cost, and economic use of resources. There is still much to be done in order to learn from last year's experience, to implement more broadly the kollektiv contract, to move away from formalism in these matters, in order for the contract of a kollektiv with the administration to become a law for both sides, in order to create for contractual kollectivs everywhere conditions for normal, highly efficient work. The natural and climatic conditions of our country are quite specific and not always favorable for the achievement of high and stable yields. Nevertheless this is no excuse for anyone to justify his own economic failure by blaming the bad weather. We can, and are, obliged to oppose nature and the elements, through knowledge, skill and experience, contemporary science and technology, plan discipline and organization. It is precisely such an approach to the matter that will enable us to increase agricultural production.